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Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you agree with the proposal to hold a referendum on the issue of granting improved status to guest workers in the CNMI?

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to cast your vote.

INSIDE

AmeriCorps Awards
72 high school AmeriCorps volunteers receive their awards at the SandCastle.

LOCAL...Page 6

Giant Spill
The giant oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico takes weather forecasters into nearly uncharted waters.

NATION...Page 15

'I Quit'
Hollywood director Guillermo del Toro has quit the planned film The Hobbit.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

DUE TO SUBMARINE VOLCANO ERUPTION

16 evacuated from Northern Islands

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife has evacuated 16 people—mostly its scientists—from the Northern Islands following the eruption of an active submarine volcano south of Sarigan Friday noon.

Demapan

Press secretary Angel Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that seven U.S. Fish & Wildlife personnel were picked up from Sarigan Sunday afternoon and brought to Saipan.

Five individuals from Alamagan and four from Pagan were removed to Saipan yesterday afternoon. It's not clear how many of the nine are

See EVACUATED on Page 4

Autonomous agencies owe Fund $29.3M

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As of March 31 this year, autonomous government agencies have incurred a total of $29.3 million in unpaid employer contributions to the NMI Retirement Fund.

The Public School System has the biggest obligation, reaching $17.042 million as of March, based on data reported to the NMI Fund board of trustees.

See AUTONOMOUS on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
The Cabrera family visits a loved one at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi yesterday, where a Memorial Day ceremony was held in honor of the men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice for freedom and security. Inset shows visiting U.S. Navy officials applauding during the ceremony.

See more photos on Page 13

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sgt. Joaquin Taitano, 25, of the U.S. Army, held his 7-month-old son Cody James as he looked for the final resting place of his three cousins.

"They're my fallen brothers, and they're the reason why I'm still here," Taitano told *Saipan Tribune*.

Taitano, who was deployed to Iraq from November 2007 to January 2009 and is preparing for his deployment to Afghanistan this Septem-

See FREEDOM on Page 4

Only 5 file complaints vs hospital last year; only 1 so far in 2010. PAGE 3
US govt moves to drop all but one charge in human smuggling. PAGE 5

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Local

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Members of Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band and musical director Will DeWitt s pose in front of the façade of The Palms Resort in San Roque yesterday for a "memory book" they are putting together.

Manta Ray Band puts together 'memory book'; holds pictorial

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band, which bagged silver in the New York International Music Festival at the Carnegie Hall on April 21, held a pictorial at The Palms Resort in San Roque yesterday for a "memory book" they are putting together.

Musical director Will DeWitt said when they were talking about a possible location for their pictorials, "The Palms always came up because of its different vista."

DeWitt, who has been a music instructor at Saipan Southern High School since 2002, said the band is putting together a "memory book" or a "miniature year book" to help capture the memories of what they describe as a milestone year.

Sixteen of the 40-member band will be graduating this year. The band's performances will also be compiled in a double DVD set.

Prior to the pictorial, The Palms Resort acting general manager Ray Dela Cruz treated the band to a sumptuous lunch at the Minami Japanese Restaurant. Dela Cruz has always been a supporter not only of the band but also the school.

The band is also planning to hold a concert at The Palms.

At the pictorial, the students put on the same dress they wore during their winning Carnegie Hall performance at the New York International Music Competition. They also tried to capture the façade of The Palms and the hotel's distinct features in their pictorials.

The pictorial came hours after some band members played at the Memorial Day ceremony in Marpi, and a few days after they held a May 26 free concert at the American Memorial Park in a show of appreciation to the community for helping the band raise the $162,000 it needed for its New York trip.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band holds a pictorial at The Palms Resort in San Roque yesterday for a "memory book" they are putting together.

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Only 5 file complaints vs hospital last year; only 1 so far in 2010

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

There may be much talk against the lack of services at the Commonwealth Health Center but very little in terms of actual complaints—if one were to gauge the number of complaints being dropped off at the "complaints box" of the hospital.

Esther Muña, acting deputy secretary for hospital administration, disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* Friday that only five official complaints were filed in 2009 and only one so far has been filed this fiscal year.

Muña said that majority of the six formal complaints involved personnel issues or concerns about hospital staffers, which have been addressed pursuant to policy.

The Department of Public Health began enforcing the policy for patients' grievances in 2005 but Muña said not many patients take advantage of the "complaints box." There were even years when the box remained empty for whole stretches.

"We need to reinforce it. It's a Medicare requirement and we're encouraging our patients to exercise their right and we are not sitting on these complaints. We take it seriously because it helps improve our services," she said.

Muña said the hospital also entertains oral complaints of patients, and these are taken cared of at the level of the nursing supervisor or charge nurse. If a patient feels a "grievance" is not adequately addressed at that level, he or she may fill up the form to elevate the matter to the next level. Grievance forms are available at many sections of the hospital and patients need only request to be given one.

CONTACT INFO

Hawaii Department of Health:
(808) 692-7420

WAYS TO COMPLAIN

- Speak with nursing supervisor or charge nurse;
- Fill out grievance form: Write the problem, specify times, dates and names, and drop at complaints box near main cashier;
- File complaint directly with Medicare;
- File complaint directly with state agency (Hawaii Health Department.

Muña assured the confidentiality of the filer's record and their medical data when filing grievances or complaints.

The business office manager has the sole authority to check and get the forms from the complaint box located near the main cashier of the hospital.

"If they are not comfortable in this way, they can also directly file [a complaint with] Medicare or the state agency. We just want to reiterate that patients have this right and we're bound to address and find solutions to their concerns," Muña said.

Instead of reporting complaints and concerns through improper media, Muña said having it on file will be the best way to resolve the issue.

Among many issues that patients complain about is mostly the lengthy "wait time."

"If a patient is still waiting for about three to four hours for the doctor or a specific service, that's a concern that they can raise. Just by reviewing the record, we will find out what happened," Muña said, adding that patients have the right to be informed by attending physicians as to their availability to check the patients.

In cases of "turned away" patients, Muña said the patients could briefly write the problem on the grievance form, specify the times, dates and names and would be contacted by DPH on the update of the complaint.

Muña assured a thorough investigation of each complaint.

According to the complaint mechanism for patients filing grievance policy, DPH encourages patients to exercise their rights as a patient, to voice their grievances, and to recommend changes in policies and services to the hospital staff and to do so free from restraint, interference, coercion, discrimination, or reprisal from hospital personnel.

The hospital administration is responsible for investigating and responding to patient and family concerns in a timely and effective manner.

The hospital, by policy, has to respond to the complaint within 30 days.

Complaints or grievances about situations that endanger the patient such as neglect, harm or abuse, shall be addressed immediately, Muña said.

The policy assures that CHC health care providers and/or other employees involved in a grievance are prohibited from interfering in any way with a grievance. Personnel are also prohibited from trying to persuade complainant to withdraw a grievance.

Patients wishing to lodge a complaint directly with the state agency can contact the Hawaii Department of Health at (808) 692-7420.

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In a collaborative effort to increase awareness in the importance of helping, ***McDonald's Saipan*** is teaming up with the local chapter of the ***American Red Cross***. Raffle tickets will be given out to businesses and individuals at no charge. Present it to any McDonald's location and 20% of your total purchase will be donated to NMI Red Cross. You will also be eligible for raffle drawing and get a chance to win fabulous prizes.

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Saipan lawmakers OK amendments to 2-year-old zoning law

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation approved on Friday a local bill amending the two-year-old Saipan Zoning Law of 2008, particularly to rezone certain areas in Chalan Kiya, Tanapag, I-Denni and Oleai/San Jose.

House Local Bill 17-2, D1, introduced by Reps. Ramon A. Tebuteb (R-Saipan) and House Minority Leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan), passed on a 17-0 vote with one abstention from Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan).

The delegation had already passed HLB 17-2 on March 4, and transmitted to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial the following day.

However, the delegation passed a motion to recall the local bill as requested by Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) to further clarify the measure. The bill was on Friday's calendar for second reading.

During the session, the delegation passed Torres' floor amendments to rezone certain areas from "village residential" to "village commercial" to allow certain businesses to operate in these areas.

Torres's amendment not only seeks to rezone certain areas but also suspends penalties resulting from the violation of provisions of the zoning law in certain areas.

As a result of rezoning an area in Tanapag to village commercial, the Waft by the Sea Restaurant, supported by village residents, can now operate in the area, along with a bakery.

Joaquin P. Villagomez asked lawmakers on Friday to pass Torres' amendment to rezone a certain area in Chalan Kiya, after the Saipan Zoning board did not reconsider his request so that his stepson could operate his small clothing design and printing shop in their family property, which also has a store.

He said their family property is also a rental property, the same with nearby entities such as The Palms and the Chalan Kiya Circle Apartments that were designated village commercial.

Villagomez also said it's ironic that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and banks are classifying his son's Kiku Debu Market as a commercial business, while the Saipan Zoning board does not.

"The board said the printing business is a garment factory. It's not. We are for orderly zoning but it has to be correct," he said.

He said in these tough economic times, laws and regulations should help legitimate businesses grow and survive.

FREEDOM

From Page 1

ber, was among those who visited the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi yesterday morning for a Memorial Day ceremony.

He said one of his cousins was the late LCpl. Adam Emul, who was killed during a patrol mission in Al Anbar, Iraq, on Jan. 29, 2007. Emul lived and grew up in Tanapag.

Emul is one of 12 soldiers from the CNMI who were killed in action in the ongoing war on terror.

They were buried at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery, along with 18 other veterans—young and old—whose commitment to protecting freedom continues to make a difference in the lives of others today.

For Bobby Winkfield and his wife Debbie, this year's Memorial Day had a much greater meaning than in previous years'.

Under the scorching sun, they stood in front of the grave of their eldest daughter, U.S. Air Force senior airman Audra Winkfield, who died almost a year from today.

Audra Winkfield, a former CNMI swimmer, died on June 21, 2009 (or June 22, 2009 Saipan time) in a car accident while on duty with the U.S. Air Force in Colorado Springs.

"I have mixed feelings. This year means a lot more to me than the past Memorial Day… I know that she's with the Lord…I'm happy knowing that she's in a better place," Bobby Winkfield, who has been in the CNMI for 32 years, said. He is the current principal at Saipan Community School, and also taught at the Public School System for 27 years.

He also said that freedom is not free.

"Someone has to make the sacrifice… I know there's a purpose for everything and she was doing what she liked. She was fulfilling her dream, so I don't question freedom because I know it's a big price to pay and it does not come free," he added.

'Honor them every day'

Col. Tod R. Fingal, vice commander of the 36th Wing at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, said he himself realized by listening to the person who introduced him as keynote speaker in yesterday's ceremony, that his accomplishments paled in comparison to the sacrifices made by the CNMI's fallen soldiers and the families they left behind.

"For those 12 families in the CNMI who have loved ones that have paid the ultimate sacrifice, you are truly the ones who are my heroes, for you have given so much for your sons and daughters across the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps in defense of our freedom, and it's difficult to put into words what that means in today's society," Fingal told the crowd at the ceremony.

Fingal, who arrived on Saipan on Saturday with his wife Rhonda, expounded on the theme of this year's Memorial Day, "Live honoring America's fallen…every day."

"The cost of freedom remains high but it's a cost that we are willing to pay. We do not pay it gladly but we pay it with deep reverence and thanks to those who have gone before us, so please continue to live honoring fallen Americans, every day."

He also said that the families of fallen soldiers in the CNMI should be proud of what their loved ones had accomplished.

"So one day each year, we acknowledge the debt we owe to the brave men and women who have given their lives to preserve our freedom. They so cherished peace that they chose to live as warriors, and these soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and coast guardsmen…We have blacks, whites, Hispanics, Chamorros, Catholics, Protestants, Muslims, and each person in our United States military is different; however, they share a commonality and that commonality is a desire for freedom and to maintain the freedom that our country enjoys," he added.

Saipan was a major battleground during World War II, with more than 3,000 American lives lost, along with 30,000 Japanese soldiers and other civilians.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, in his welcoming remarks, called on the community to reflect on the true meaning of Memorial Day by paying tribute to those who served honorably and gave their lives in pursuit of freedom and security.

"We cannot hope to find full measure to repay them and their loved ones. But the very least we can do is honor their memory and treasure the liberty they bought for us with their lives," he said.

Toward the end of his remarks, Fitial shared an inscription on a World War II British memorial in Burma: "When you go home, tell them of us and say for your tomorrow we gave our today."

The governor said the inscription "says so eloquently what I think we should all feel today."

Ruth Coleman, the governor's executive assistant for military and veterans affairs, said the CNMI has its share of heroes.

"They paid the ultimate price of freedom and we honor them for it. It's our sacred duty to keep their legacy fresh in the memories of future generations," she said.

Another link to the past

At exactly 9am yesterday, a B-2 from the 393rd Bomb Squadron made a flyover directly over the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi as part of the ceremony.

Fingal said this was the same bomb squadron that, back in 1945, flew out of Tinian in the *Enola Gay* to help end the war in the Pacific.

"So the linkage that the 393rd has in this region and what they brought to us today is key to showing we will not forget those who we have lost in battle," he said.

The atomic bombs that were dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima took off from Tinian, hastening the end of the war.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), a U.S. Army veteran and a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3457, said the B-2 flyover also shows the importance of the Marianas to the U.S. military.

"And it's always nice to see people come out here to pay tribute to veterans, living or not. And hopefully someday peace will be restored everywhere," he said.

The Pacific Winds Concert Band provided the ceremonial music, while Saipan Southern High School JROTC posted and retired the U.S. and CNMI flags. Press secretary Angel Demapan and Keolani Ngirachelionig served as master and mistress of the ceremony, and Pastor Greg Dickerman of Saipan Community Church led the invocation.

Also present at the ceremony were Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, veterans, active duty military personnel, their families and friends, U.S. Navy officials, lawmakers and other members of the community.

Yesterday's Memorial Day ceremony capped the observance of Memorial Week from May 25 to 31.

AUTONOMOUS

From Page 1

The second biggest delinquent is the Northern Marianas College, which owes the Fund $5.978 million during the same period.

The cash-strapped Commonwealth Utilities Corp. comes third, with $3.2 million in unpaid employer contributions, while the Tinian Municipal Treasurer is fourth, with arrears of $2.1 million.

Other independent departments and their respective obligations are Marianas Visitors Authority, $654,466; Commonwealth Ports Authority, $238,169; and Department of Public Lands, $101,341.

Saipan Tribune learned that big bulk of these agencies' debt with the Fund arose due to changes in the laws governing the employer's contribution rate.

The board of trustees earlier threatened these delinquent agencies that they will be hailed to court if they fail to settle these long-overdue accounts.

Fund officials said that some autonomous agencies are currently negotiating with the Fund for their payment plans.

In its operating and investment activities, the Fund reported that it continues to see positive results after it generated a revenue of $4.6 million from its operating activities and cut operational costs by $2.6 million—a savings of 7 percent.

The 38-percent increase in revenue came from the increase in the CNMI government's employer contribution rate from 16 percent to 20 percent, plus new money from the 30 percent remitted taxes.

Meantime, estimate expenditures for six months totaled $39.3 million but actual cost was at $36.7 million, which translates to a savings of $2.6 million.

The Fund's off-island investments are believed headed into positive territory based on the March 2010 figures, according to the Fund.

Saipan Tribune learned that the Fund's investment performance reported a net increase of $22 million to the fair value of its investment as of March this year.

As for drawdowns, the Fund recorded a total of $19.5 million withdrawals in the last six months. The agency has a drawdown balance of $34.8 million until the end of fiscal year based on the $55 million cap approved by the board.

The Fund noted that its drawdown in March was high due to the CNMI government's late remittance of its employer contributions.

The trend for the past six months indicates that if the Fund continues to draw down at an average monthly rate of $3.3 million, the agency should be able to save $14.4 million or 26 percent of the $55 million authorized for withdrawal in FY 2010.

EVACUATED

From Page 1

Northern Islands residents, according to Demapan.

He said they called off the evacuation operation for the nine in Alamagan and Pagan on Sunday afternoon because visibility had cleared up, giving the scientists time to make further observations.

According to the Emergency Management Office, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife used a fixed wing aircraft and a helicopter to extract 16 personnel from Sarigan and Northern Islands.

EMO said the extraction continued yesterday.

EMO said the Alaska Volcanic Observatory and the National Weather Service Guam will continue to assist with their own assets to monitor the area.

The EMO's Crisis Management Team stood down at 3:45pm Sunday.

EMO said consultations with U.S. Fish and Wildlife, AVO, NWS and National Incident Management Organization is ongoing.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has declared a state of disaster emergency in the CNMI following the submarine volcano eruption south of Sarigan.

Fitial declared Sarigan unsafe for human habitation and restricted all travel to the island, with the exception of scientific expeditions.

According to EMO, continuing volcanic activity is on-going in the area south of Sarigan, based on seismic activity and visual observations, "presenting a continuing threat of adverse impact in the waters and air space south of Sarigan island."

Sarigan, an island 175 kilometers (109 miles) north of Saipan, is a stratovolcano with no known historic eruptions. It was used as a copra plantation prior to World War II and is currently uninhabited.

According to the USGS, volcanic activity observed on Thursday, May 27, south of Sarigan Island has increased, and the Guam Weather Forecast Office reported that recent satellite images indicate that the affected area is about twice the size of Sarigan Island.

It quoted an observer from the EMO that overflew and photographed an elongated patch of discolored ocean water and possible light-colored floating debris about 6-7 miles south of Sarigan on Thursday. At that time, the area of discoloration and debris extended over about a mile. Successive satellite images indicate that this is a point-source that has dramatically expanded in breadth. The activity appears to be centered about 6-7 miles south of Sarigan, probably on the southern extension of the submarine ridge upon which Sarigan is constructed.

"Submarine eruptions are not uncommon in the Marianas Islands; mariners in the area should remain alert for floating debris and avoid areas of strongly discolored or disturbed water. Near-sea level eruptions can be dangerous producing ash laden explosions, ash and ballistic fallout, and water waves. AVO maintains no monitoring equipment on these submarine volcanoes and therefore warning of eruptive activity is not possible," the USGS said.

US govt moves to drop all but one charge in human smuggling

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. government has moved to dismiss all charges except one against four of the five Chinese nationals who allegedly attempted to sneak into Guam by boarding two inflatable boats at the West Harbor docks on Rota.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kirk W. Schuler asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to dismiss all charges except for the conspiracy to defraud the United States charge that was filed against Shixu Huang, Lihua Yi, Pingping Zhang, and Zhanshan Zhang.

The fifth defendant—Jingfan Zhang—entered a plea agreement with the U.S. government.

The bench trial of Huang, Yi, Pingping Zhang, and Zhanshan Zhang will start today, Tuesday.

The indictment charged the defendants with three counts each for conspiracy (defraud and offense theories), eluding examination and inspection, and attempted improper entry.

In his motion, Schuler said the dismissal of the other charges is not contrary to manifest public interest.

"Simply put, it is the duty of the prosecutor to seek justice, not just to win a conviction. And because of these special responsibilities, the determination of the public interest is in the first instance for the prosecutor to make," Schuler said.

The five were caught making the attempt to sneak into Guam on Jan. 30, 2010, at 4am. They boarded two inflatable boats at the West Harbor docks but law enforcement personnel pursued and intercepted the boats. Immigration and Customs Enforcement had received prior information that the attempt would be made.

Schuler said the five flew from Saipan to Rota and were planning to travel by boat from Rota to Guam.

Schuler said a Chinese national successfully carried out this plan in July 2009, giving the defendants the idea to make a similar attempt.

Owner of closed restaurant sues contractors for defective building

The owner of the closed Dr. Jack's Restaurant on Capital Hill has sued the contractors over the alleged defective construction of the building.

Barbara Ann Reyes sued Solid Builders and its owner, Ben Fejeran, Leticia Reyes and her company, LR Consulting & Construction, and Pacific Basin Insurance Co.

Reyes, through counsel Stephen J. Nutting, sued the defendants for breach of contract and violation of the Commonwealth's Unfair Business Practices Act.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed to contact the defendants yesterday for comments.

Reyes asked the Superior Court to order the defendants to pay her damages for lost profits and $17,700 in liquidated damages, plus attorney's fees, and court costs.

Reyes and Solid Builders and LR Consulting (contractors) entered into a $96,000 contract on Dec. 26, 2006, for the construction of a restaurant building along Isa Drive.

Nutting said the contractors failed to perform and complete all of the work required under the contract. He said the building had numerous defects, with a leaking roof, exterior walls, and columns that damaged the interior of the restaurant. He said efforts to repair the defects were faulty and were cosmetic and ineffective.

"Such repairs only served to mask the problems and to prevent Reyes from discovering the full extent of the damage until such time as the contractor's warranties, and or the statute of limitations might expire," Nutting said.

He claimed the contractors used inferior materials, improper and inadequate surface preparation, and unworkmanlike manner in performing the repairs.

Nutting said the contractors also induced the Department of Public Works to issue an occupancy permit in order to attempt to evade any further obligations.

Nutting said DPW failed to notify Reyes it was conducting a final inspection, and no electrical or plumbing tests were completed to ensure that that they were compliant with the building, mechanical and electrical code.

With the defective construction of the roof and the structure itself, he said Reyes will be required to make repairs, or to remove and replace the roof and possibly the columns and beams, if not replace the entire structure.

"The exact costs of such repairs are presently unknown... When the costs of making such repairs are ascertained, plaintiff will seek leave of court to amend this complaint," Nutting said.

He said that Reyes was forced to shut down the restaurant on Feb. 23, 2010, due to the mold that continues to grow inside the premises due to the faulty construction and concerns that the roof is not structurally sound. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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– JEFF
(Yeah, Thanks! – Robbie)

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AmeriCorps awards 72 members, volunteers for public service

DENCIO MANGLONA

AmeriCorps volunteers show a video montage and share personal stories of helping fellow students with their reading skills at the program's commencement exercise held at the SandCastle of the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

By DENCIO MANGLONA
STUDENT INTERN

Pride filled AmeriCorps director Christine Masga's eyes as she watched 72 high school AmeriCorps participants receive their awards at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's SandCastle after a long year of tutoring children, participating in community events, and tireless devotion.

Coordinators, site supervisors, and student volunteers from different schools celebrated the end of the school year yesterday by showing video montages and others presentations while sharing personal stories of helping fellow students with their reading skills and encouraging them to be more positive about learning.

The students volunteered a total of 3,142 hours from October 2009 to April 2010.

"It's all about teaching them to give back to the community," said Masga at the award ceremony yesterday. "We've given the site supervisors and members a lot of leeway so that they can be more flexible in the ways they can help students."

Masga described the program as a "mini teacher academy," offering high school students the experience of working directly with elementary and junior high school students in the classroom and in the community.

In addition to after-school programs, AmeriCorps members and volunteers conduct weekend reading initiatives such as "Saturday Reading" and promoting family involvement in the learning process by participating in events such as Project Familia.

Before presenting on his school's success, one AmeriCorps member said, "These kids are something. They're always jumping around and moving even after lunch when I want to take a nap. But we made it through this year and we have a video to prove it."

The AmeriCorps program began under the Clinton Administration through the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 and was one of the expanded national service programs under the Edward M. Kennedy Service America Act.

Paulette Sablan, a teacher and site supervisor for Garapan Elementary School, has been involved with the AmeriCorps program since its inception in the CNMI four years ago. "This program presents an opportunity for struggling readers to succeed. We love the AmeriCorps members—the students always look forward to Saturday Reading and after school tutoring. Whenever they see the tutors they are always happy to see them," she said.

Masga, director of the AmeriCorps CNMI chapter, said the students "not only [participate] at the school[s] but also at community functions…they've come a long way, I'm so proud of them."

ATTENTION

All CNMI Government employees currently in the 401(a) Defined Contribution (DC) Retirement Plan.

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We will be conducting Employee Plan Presentations.
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SAIPAN

Wednesday, June 2, 2010
at the Multi Purpose Center
in Susupe, Saipan

Session 1:	9:00am to 10:00am
Session 2:	10:30am to 11:30am
Session 3:	2:00pm to 3:00pm
Session 4:	3:30pm to 4:30pm

TINIAN

Thursday, June 3, 2010
at the Tinian Youth Center,
San Jose, Tinian

Session #1:	9:00am to 10:00
Session #2:	10:30am to 11:30am
Session #3:	1:30pm to 2:30pm
Session #4:	3:00pm to 4:00pm

Friday, June 4, 2010
at the Tinian Youth Center,
San Jose, Tinian

Session #1:	8:30am to 9:30am
Session #2:	10:00am to 11:00am

Please join us for one of our sessions so that you can obtain information that will benefit you and your future.

For more information you can contact our office at 235-2724/25.

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Lawmakers want PSS to account for $3M in educational tax credit

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Besides the local funds being allocated to the Public School System, some lawmakers also want to find out how PSS is spending specific accounts such as the educational tax credit funding, according to a Board of Education official.

Board member Herman T. Guerrero, chairman of the board's fiscal and personnel affairs committee, told the board in a meeting last week that questions about the ETC were raised during one of the budget meetings with the Legislature.

Educational tax credit donations to all 20 public schools on three islands average about $3 million every year. These are money donated by private companies to public schools as tax credit, designed for specific use such as to buy school equipment, textbooks, and supplies.

ETC donations are pooled at the PSS central office and are deposited in a single account. If the school needs to buy something, it sends a request to PSS, which then disburses the amount.

Each school's share of the ETC fund varies, depending on the amount donated to it by private companies. There are schools that have higher shares of the fund due to their aggressive efforts to seek aid from donor companies.

Guerrero said some lawmakers want to scrutinize the ETC account to make sure that PSS is still following policy when using the account. He told the board his committee conveyed the idea to lawmakers that they welcome any inspection of the ETC account because he is confident that all policies are being complied with.

Lawmakers also questioned PSS' capability to make sure all laptops that will be procured under the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund won't end up being stolen.

"They're concerned on how many of these laptops will go to the pawnshops…but we did point out to the Legislature that PSS should not be blamed entirely for [the burglaries in schools], considering that other agencies are tasked to enforce the law," Guerrero told the board, adding that lawmakers should instead ask how many students will benefit from the project.

All junior and high school students in public schools will be given a laptop under the PSS One Laptop Per Child Project. Over 5,000 laptops will be bought for the project.

5 pct. drop seen in youth tobacco use this school year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The number of high school students who smoke is expected to drop this new school year, from the current 39 percent to 34 percent, according to the Department of Public Health's Community Guidance Center.

Becky Robles, tobacco program coordinator, disclosed yesterday that a new survey on youth smoking will be conducted this year as soon as the schools open classes in September and they already expect to see a 5-percent drop among high school students.

Robles says they expect the decline due to the passage of Public Law 16-46, which banned smoking in public places, coupled with the aggressive anti-tobacco campaign being waged by the department and other groups.

The youth smoking survey is being done in collaboration with the Public School System and private schools. The last tobacco survey conducted on island was in 2004.

Robles said that DPH is also working on a behavioral risk factor survey and, once the data are compiled, the survey among high school students will begin.

"For adults, DPH conducted a behavioral risk factor survey and once we compile the data, then we will have some adult baseline data that we've been waiting for for a long time," said Robles.

Yesterday, various government and nonprofit groups joined the Community Guidance Center in its one-day tobacco-free campaign at Garapan Central Park. The event kicked off at 9am with a road waving by participants, which included advocates and students.

According to Ricky Itibus, Community Guidance Center tobacco health public educator, yesterday's campaign was part of a World Health Organization initiative.

Itibus expressed satisfaction at the turnout, considering that it was a national holiday. Yesterday was Memorial Day, a federal holiday.

Inside the Garapan Central Park, volunteers and representatives of various organizations such as the Commonwealth Cancer Association, NMC-CREES, Ayuda Network and HIV-Napu Life handed out flyers and other informative materials to the crowd.

The event was also highlighted by special anti-tobacco skit performed by students, dance performances, and raffle drawings.

Yesterday's theme was "Get Smart, Tobacco-Free." The event ended at 2pm.

Organizers and volunteers in yesterday's anti-tobacco campaign of the Community Guidance Center gather at one of the exhibit booths during the five-hour event held at Garapan Central Park. Besides exhibits, the campaign was also highlighted by special performances.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

CONGRATULATIONS!
Arvin Dayao, second grade student at Grace Christian Academy, shows off his trophies and medals during the Awards Day held on May 24, 2010. Among the awards he received were: Consistent Principal Honor Roll, Bible Sword Drill Champion, Bible Trivia Winner, Bible Memory Verse Character Award, Science Quiz Bowl 1st Place Winner, PGFC Regional Silver Medalist, and Perfect Attendance. He was also awarded trophies for garnering the highest Grade Point Average in second grade and in First-Second Elementary Dept. during the Elementary Commencement Exercises held May 26, 2010 at GCA Auditorium.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

New name for AMP's mother organization

By DENCIO MANGLONA
STUDENT INTERN

The Arizona Memorial Museum Association made its own history today as the 31-year-old non-profit organization officially changed its name to Pacific History Parks.

PHP is marking the launch of its new name and look with a special bestsellers book sale and giveaway of commemorative historic bookmarkers with each purchase.

The organization provides educational and visitor activity support for four National Parks, Saipan's American Memorial Park being one of the sponsored sites.

Other PHP sponsored sites include War in the Pacific National Historical Park on Guam and two sites in Hawaii—the Kalaupapa National Historical Park in Molokai and the World War II Valor in the Pacific site in Pearl Harbor.

PHP was formed in 1979 as a non-profit cooperating association with the National Park Service to support and fund educational programs, museum displays and exhibits, and interpretive programs for the USS *Arizona* Memorial. Many charter members of PHP had been involved in the fundraising for the construction of the USS *Arizona* Memorial in 1961 and the original Visitor Center in 1980.

"Our association's new name, Pacific Historic Parks, better reflects our expanded scope of support at historical sites throughout the Pacific," said George Sullivan, chairman of the board, Pacific Historic Parks. "Although our name has changed, our mission remains the same. We will continue to preserve and support these historical landmarks to ensure visitors for generation to come will have full appreciation and understanding the events and sacrifices of the people involved in the sites we serve."

PHP-funded preservation projects include archiving oral histories of World War II survivors and historical photos, scientific dives beneath the USS *Arizona* Memorial and resource protection at National Park site facilities.

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MHS Class of '70 to celebrate 40th year

About forty years ago, Marianas High School presented diplomas to its first graduates. Filled with excitement and anxiety, the graduating seniors made their walk on the stage to receive the piece of document dismissing them of their final presence around the school campus and classrooms of the two-storey building.

It was a time for teary eyes, moments of fear, moments of loneliness, and to some, moments of happiness for achieving goals, and for some, moments of uncertainty. A total of 122 students were disbelieving that 12 years of schooling finally came to an end. On June 5, 1970, all were dressed in caps and gowns, ready to face the real world outside of their familiar environs.

Some graduating students came from afar, from the neighboring islands of Tinian and Rota, to the Micronesian islands like Palau, Truk, and the Marshalls. They also shared memories with a few U.S. stateside classmates. They were all there to bid each other their last farewells, not knowing if they would ever see each other again.

At its 40th year, the Class of 1970 will be coming together, whether they actually received their high school diploma or not, but were classmates at Hopwood Junior and High School during the years of 1964 through 1969.

To honor the memory of those classmates who have passed on, a Eucharistic Mass will be held at 3pm at San Jose Church, on June 5, 2010. More than 31 classmates are known to have passed on already. The Mass is also to celebrate the beginning of the reunion for the classmates.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Class of 1970 pose for a group picture at their last get-together.

Some classmates will be making the trip to Saipan mainly for the occasion, and to visit with families and friends on island. There are classmates coming all the way from Michigan, Pennsylvania, Arizona, and Guam. Unfortunately, some classmates are not able to join the celebration due to family obligations.

The Class of 1970 banquet will be held at 6pm, at Pacific Islands Club, Charley's Cabaret, after the Eucharistic celebration. The banquet welcomes all former teachers, spouses of deceased classmates, and all classmates of Marianas High – Hopwood Jr./Sr. School. Dancing to the music of Maggie Naputi, slides of the olden days, sharing of stories, then and now, and just to socialize with classmates, not having seen each other for a couple of decades or more.

Culminating the reunion will be the marching participation of the alumni of Marianas High and Hopwood High schools classmates of 1970, which will take place at the graduation exercise to be held at the MHS Gym on June 14, 2010. The current graduation class invites the 1970 Classmates to be present and to be acknowledged as the *first* graduating class of Marianas High School. A brief inspirational talk will be presented to the graduating class by one of the 1970 graduate.

Every classmate is encouraged to join the group as they commemorate the 40th year of their high school graduation. For more information, call John Camacho at 483-6651; Chai Ada Camacho at 235-1951; Tony Cabrera at 483-6367 or 288-6362; or Laling Sablan Muna at lalingsmuna@saipan.com. ***(PR)***

A daughter may outgrow your lap, but she will never outgrow your heart. Happy 8th birthday to our daughter, Juana Francisca Caridad SN. Kiyoshi! Wishing you many more wonderful years to come. We love you very much! From Daddy, Mommy and your siblings.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 88th birthday to a special mother, grandma, and great grandma, Aniwisa "Nicheinet" Nusun, who turns 88 today, June 1, 2010 and will celebrate with her loved ones on Saturday. We thank you for everything and love you unconditionally! Greetings come from your daughter Sally/Cas, kids, grandkids, and the whole family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Breanna Kay Maratita Camacho, who is celebrating her special day today! May you enjoy your day with fun and laughter with all the joyous moments you will have. We are all so proud of you Brea! God bless and may you have more wonderful birthdays to come. Love you always! From Mom, Dad, and the familia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HEADING TO THE PROM

Congratulations to the Saipan Southern High Class of 2010 for a successful 2010 prom! In this photo are Mac Suda and Tamleen Ada of SSHS heading out to the prom. Greetings come from the KCC-NWTF.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 1, 1999

Without lease extension, Rota Resort could lose $100M

If the government fails to grant a 15-year land lease extension, the Rota Resort and Country Club would lose more than $100 million in investments that could threaten the future of tourism business on the island. This was the contention of the resort's owner SNM Corporation in its fight to win additional 15 years on the lease agreement it forged with the CNMI government in 1989. The current 25-year lease has 17 more years to go before it expires, but the resort has asked the Legislature to provide them extension -- a request that has come under close scrutiny after the Division of Public Lands stepped in to question the move.

PSS wants expenditure authority over CIP projects

The Board of Education is seeking anew expenditure authority over infrastructure grants for the Public School System before it begins construction of Capital Improvement Projects listed under the $30 million package. In a recent CIP meeting, board members have called for the expeditious processing of a resolution seeking to put the power of the purse to PSS. In a resolution passed last year, Commissioner Rita H. Inos was named expenditure authority for all PSS construction projects. Such proposal, however, is expected to trigger again a debate over expending authority on CIP projects after Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio had vetoed a measure that removed from the secretary of the Department of Public Works such power.

June 1, 2000

Increase in PSS budget means extra $20 million

The proposed 10 percent increase in the Public School System's yearly budget appropriation could mean an extra $20 million for public education in the Northern Marianas. Given the projected $211 million CNMI revenues in Fiscal Year 2001, PSS would be entitled to $42.2 million for overall operations, according to a PSS budget history report. The figure is a far cry from 15 percent guaranteed appropriation as mandated by the constitution, or some $31.6 million. Projected student enrollment for FY 2001 is targeted to reach 10,000 combining all 16 public schools on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

House stops Judiciary from tapping trust funds

Under time pressure to pass the proposal, the House of Representatives yesterday approved an amendment to Public Law 11-105 to prohibit the Superior Court to make money out of trust funds temporarily entrusted to the judiciary. HB 12-200, sponsored by Speaker Benigno R. Fitial, now heads to the Senate for action. The Legislature has until this Sunday to enact the legislation under the 10-day period granted by the U.S. District Court before it can rule the law unconstitutional. Judge Alex R. Munson decided in favor of the plaintiff, James E. Hollman, in the lawsuit he filed against the CNMI government, challenging the constitutionality of PL 11-105 that was signed by the governor in October last year.

June 1, 2001

Compromise deal on 3-year limit law seen

The House of Representatives is hoping to strike a compromise agreement with the Senate on the three-year stay limit issue, as it opened the possibility of softening earlier clamor for a complete repeal. The lower house dropped strong hints it may agree on the proposed creation of a special task force that will handle a comprehensive evaluation and study on the impending exodus of the Commonwealth's nonresident workers. The Legislature's Bicameral Committee is negotiating the terms of a possible compromise deal to resolve concerns on whether to repeal the three-year limit law in its entirety or just cook up safety nets to save the local business community.

MVA hopes to tap 4 new markets

The Marianas Visitors Authority is looking at opening four new markets in Japan to perk up visitor arrivals into the CNMI, after years of contraction. MVA Chair David M. Sablan wants to revisit travel markets in Fukuoka, Osaka, Sendai and Sapporo, seen to generate additional 4,000 visitors each month for the Northern Marianas. Mr. Sablan is upbeat the CNMI can replicate the success of the recent re-opening of the Nagoya market, which MVA believed contributed to the three percent increase in Japanese arrivals to the islands in April. Continental Airlines started deploying nonstop daily flights between Saipan and Nagoya in April.

Seatbelt, child-seat checkpoints on Saipan

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting courtesy car seat inspections and occupant protection child restraint checkpoints on Saipan on June 3 and 5, 2010.

On June 3, the first OP/CR checkpoint will be held on 16 Hwy. Chalan Kiya by the CUS waterloo station on the westbound outer lane, from 8:30am to 9:45am.

The second set up will be held on Middle Road 2W Puerto Rico in front of Grand Market, on the southbound outer lane, from 6:30pm to 7:45pm.

On June 5, the checkpoint will be held on Beach Road Susupe in front of the Minatchom Atdao pavilion, on the southbound outer lane, from 3:30pm to 4:45pm.

Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour 15 minutes) at each location. Checkpoints are subject to be terminated if it begins to rain.

In addition, police officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrol, and aggressive driver interdictions.

This activity is part of the department's efforts to ensure that all vehicle occupants are protected. For more information, contact Sgt. Sylvan Rangamor at 664-9085/84 or DPS-PIO Police Officer Eric David at 483-9032. ***(DPS)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CCA board meets today

The Commonwealth Cancer Association board of directors will be convening today, Tuesday, June 1, 2010, at the Saiship Conference Room in Lower Base, starting at 4:30pm. The agenda will include review of the 2010 Marianas March Against Cancer committee report; reports from the program manager and accountant; discussion of the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program plan, and the role of the Commonwealth Cancer Association; the proposed supplemental budget for 2010; and opportunity for open discussion, including public comment. All CCA board meetings are open to the public. For more information, call 682-0050, email cca@ccamarianas.org, or visit www.ccamarianas.org. ***(CCA)***

John Gonzales Live this week

John Gonzales Live airs live on Wednesday and replays on Sunday and Monday, all at 7pm-8pm on Channel 2. Call 287-4230, text 285-6382, or e-mail johngonzales@pticom.com for your question or comment.

Topic: NMI Retirement Fund Issues

Guests:

1. Sixto K. Igisomar, chairman, board of trustees
2. Jerry P. Crisostomo, vice chairman, board of trustees
3. Mark A. Aguon, administrator, NMI Retirement Fund
4. Richard S. Villagomez, deputy administrator, NMI Retirement Fund
5. Juan M. Sablan, president, Commonwealth Retirement Association
6. Viola Alepuyo, board counsel

Free fitness classes in Kagman

The Kagman Komunidat Association is conducting free fitness classes at the Kagman Community Center on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5pm-6pm.

Only 15 participants will be accommodated per class so make your reservations soon. Participants must bring an exercise mat, sweat towel, exercise shoes, and drinking water. Any hotels or businesses that wish to donate mats can contact KKA. Call Greg DL Guerrero at 285-4007 to reserve a spot or e-mail kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Art exhibition at Hopwood

The CNMI Public School System will be holding the Art Exhibit and Performance Festival on Saturday, June 5, 2010 at Hopwood Junior High School from 10am-5pm. Art exhibit and performances from public school students from Saipan, Rota, and Tinian will be on display throughout the event. The general public is invited to join us in this celebration of talent and diversity. For questions and concern contact 237-3014. ***(PR)***

Jerry/Mikhail Alcantara
Godfather's Bar
Fundraiser Raffle Winners

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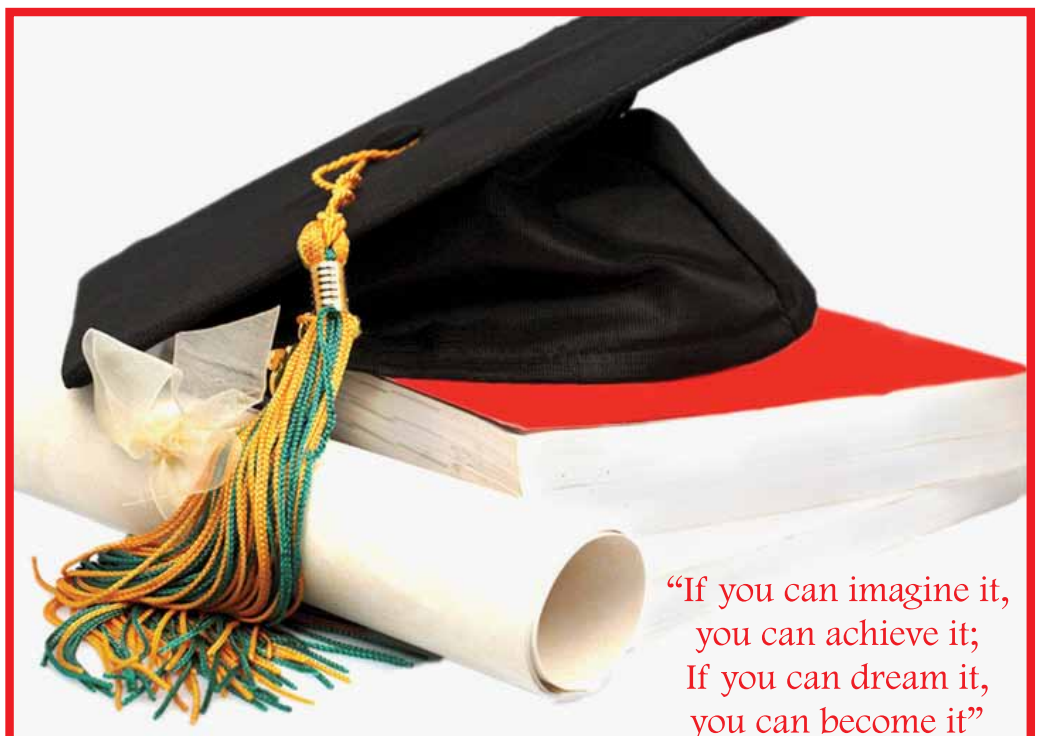
0483	COMPACT DVD PLAYER (Jhonjie & Nhing Reyes)	Mikka Valencia
0539	COFFEE MAKER (Mr. James Matsumoto)	Lira Park
0027	1 STAINLESS STEEL VACUUM FLASK (Jelikimik)	Olga Shakalova
0462	BRENTWOOD CITRUS JUICER (Hans Mickelson)	Carol Aguon
0600	GIFT CERTIFICATE (Hermans Modern Bakery)	John Sadiua
0393	GIFT CERTIFICATE (Shirley's Coffee Shop)	Megan Hassel
0419	GIFT CERTICATE (Truong's Restaurant)	Luis N.
0583	GIFT BAG (I connect)	John
0121	GIFT CERTIFICATE (Wushin Corp.)	Rob Engelhart
0585	GIFT CERTIFICATE (Wushin Corp.)	Patricia
0061	GIFT CERTIFICATE (Godfathers Bar)	Joelin Jalmas
0145	GIFT CERTIFICATE (Godfathers Bar)	Dennis Chaplan
0285	DINNER CRUISE FOR TWO (Saipan Sunset Cruise Inc.)	Dave and Lian
0576	DINNER CRUISE FOR TWO (Saipan Sunset Cruise Inc.)	Mr. Niedo
0068	FREE OIL AND FILTER CHANGE (Triple J Motors)	Manny Boyer Sablan
0569	FREE OIL AND FILTER CHANGE (Triple J Motors)	Joyce McCarthy
0550	WATER PARK PASS FOR TWO (PIC)	Reynaldo Rojas
0400	WATER PARK PASS FOR TWO (PIC)	Da dela Cruz
0408	MAGELLAN LUNCH FOR TWO (PIC)	Emy Camacho
0090	MAGELLAN LUNCH FOR TWO (PIC)	S M T
0130	GIVENCHY ACCESORY BAG (DFS Galleria)	Rose Callier
0183	T. HILFIGER CARRY ON BAG (DFS Galleria)	Alice Kintoki
0205	RALPH LAUREN TOWEL (DFS Galleria)	Elli Aguilar
0449	GIFT CERTIFICATE (Island Apparel)	Mike Conley
0107	GIFT CERTIFICATE (Island Apparel)	Mark Robertson
0094	EYE CHECK UP WORTH $150 (Marianas Eye Institute)	Bo
0192	EYE CHECK UP WORTH $150 (Marianas Eye Institute)	Ritz Villadiego
0596	EYE CHECK UP WORTH $150 (Marianas Eye Institute)	Patricia
0599	EYE CHECK UP WORTH $150 (Marianas Eye Institute)	Patricia
0220	THEME LUNCH FOR TWO (Fiesta Resort Hotel)	Emi
0544	THEME LUNCH FOR TWO (Fiesta Resort Hotel)	Randolph Lacay
0099	1 CASE MLLER LITE (Pacific Trading Corp.)	Rose Wanket
0523	1 CASE MLLER LITE (Pacific Trading Corp.)	Dolly Andrade
0288	1 CASE MLLER LITE (Pacific Trading Corp.)	David Lewis
0495	1 CASE MLLER LITE (Pacific Trading Corp.)	Roberto Evangelista
0283	T-SHIRT (Hard Rock Café)	Dan Wollack
0390	Coffee Mug (Hard Rock Café)	Becca Schroeder
0203	Coffee Mug (Hard Rock Café)	Frances Amog
0076	Coffee Mug (Hard Rock Café)	Larry of IT&E
0051	Coffee Mug (Hard Rock Café)	Marivic Japor
0143	Coffee Mug (Hard Rock Café)	Joe Przyuski

On behalf of my family, we would like give our deepest appreciation to all the businesses and individuals who donated prizes and helped sell tickets for our 'Fundraiser'. Without your generosity and kindness, the success of our fundraiser would not have been possible.

From the bottom of our hearts, Thank you so much, Maraming Salamat po!

Jerry Alcantara



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Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BID
CUC-IFB-10-034

REHABILITATION OF THE AGINGAN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

The Office of the Governor, Benigno R. Fitial and the office of Lt. Governor, Eloy S. Inos through the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the Rehabilitation of the the Agingan Wastewater Treatment Plant in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A Pre-Bid conference for this project is scheduled at 9:00 AM., on June 4, 2010, at the CUC Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building Saipan. A project site visit and inspection follows the Pre-Bid meeting.

A non-refundable payment of $200 will be required for each set of Plans, Specification, and Proposal Forms, and will be made available for pick-up, on or after May 28, 2010 at the CUC Water-Wastewater Division Office the 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan,

One (1) original and five (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-10-034, REHABILITATION OF THE AGINGAN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than June 29, 2010** at 10:00 AM, (CHST) local time, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury. A performance and payment bond of hundred (100%) percent each of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety for proposal security. The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a U.S. Treasury listed company. No advance payment will be authorized on the project or an Irrevocable Letter of Credit (100% aggregate contract cost/CUC Beneficiary) or a payment bond. All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less that the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of Interior. Progress payments shall be made to the Contractor.

The project consists, in general, of rehabilitating and upgrading the Agingan Wastewater Treatment Plant. The work shall be done in sequence as necessary in order not to disrupt the daily operation of the treatment plant. The work is inclusive of rehabilitation of the Belt Filter Press equipment, replacement of pumps, emptying and clean up of all the basins, repair, replacement, rehabilitation of pipeline, manifolds, clarifier mechanism and accessories, etc.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government.

All technical and procurement inquiries should be directed to Capt. Robert Lorenz, CUC Waste/Wastewater Engineer via email robert_lorenz@cucgov.net, Christy Lazaro, CUC Waste/Wastewater Engineer via email Ms. Christi@cucgov.net. & Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Procurement & Supply Manager via email msablan@cucgov.net.

/s/ ABE U. MALAE
Assistant Executive Director for Operation

/s/ ANTONIO S. MUNA
Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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America's 'casualty gap'

We shouldn't overlook a hidden aspect of war: the socioeconomic inequality in who makes the ultimate sacrifice for the nation

By DOUGLAS L. KRINER and FRANCIS X. SHEN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 5,000 Americans have lost their lives in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq—almost 600 of them Californians. This sacrifice, and the sacrifice of all of our brave men and women in uniform, will be honored over the Memorial Day weekend. In honoring their service, we should not overlook a very real though hidden aspect of war: the socioeconomic inequality in who makes the ultimate sacrifice in defense of the nation.

Over the last six years, we have studied this inequality by collecting and analyzing data on the hometowns of more than 400,000 members of the armed forces who died in World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Iraq. By integrating these records with census data, we demonstrate unambiguously that, beginning with the Korean War, disadvantaged communities have suffered a disproportionate share of the nation's wartime casualties, while richer communities have been more insulated from the costs of war. Furthermore, the data suggest that this "casualty gap" between rich and poor communities has reached its widest proportions in the ongoing conflict in Iraq. Although the military uses the term "casualty" in reference to both killed and wounded soldiers, following the standard practice in political science our study uses the term casualty to denote deaths.

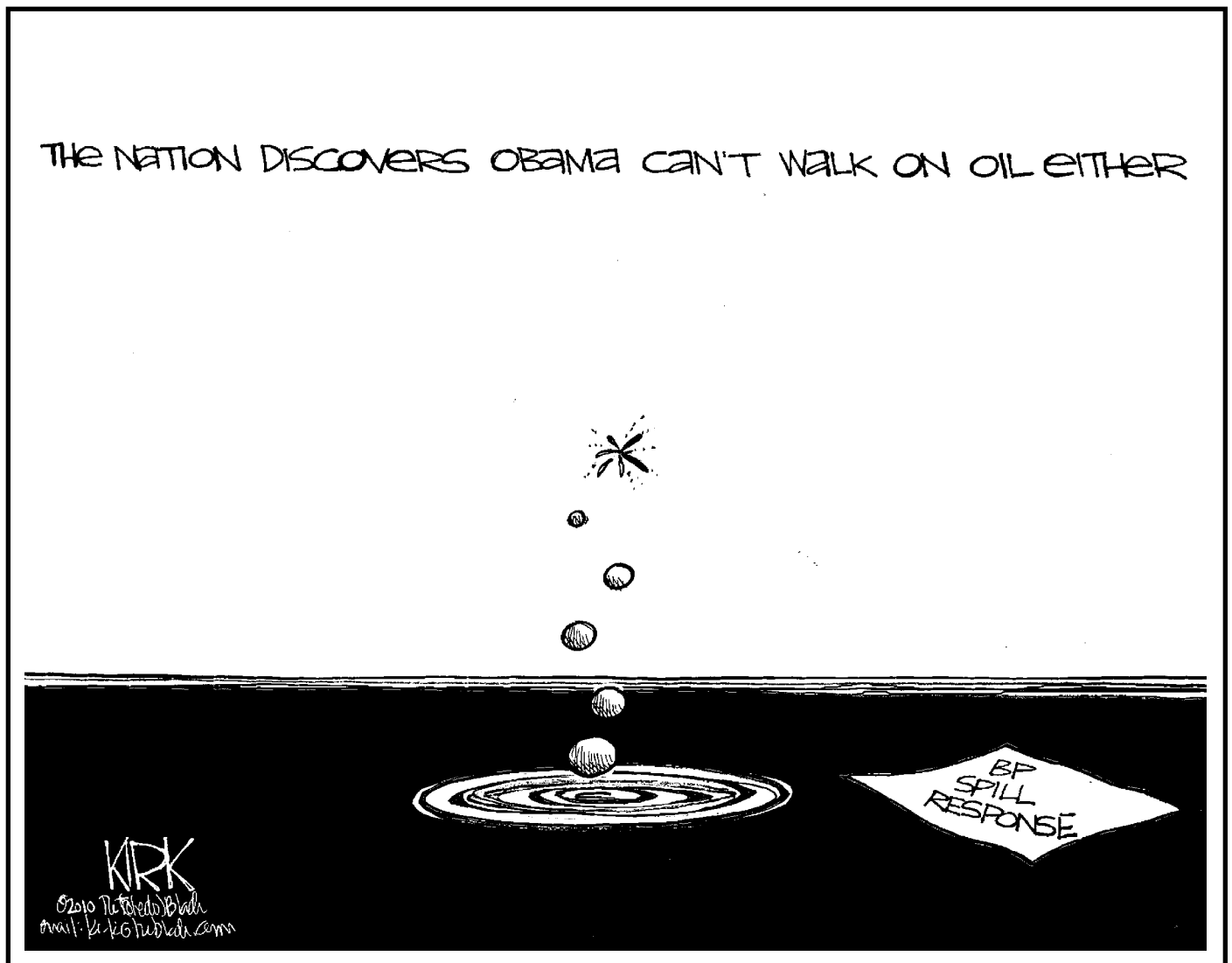
Nationally, in the Korean, Vietnam and Iraq wars, communities in the lowest three income deciles suffered 35 percent, 36 percent and 38 percent of the casualties, respectively. Yet communities in the top three income deciles sustained significantly fewer casualties—25 percent, 26 percent and 23 percent of the casualties, respectively.

More advanced statistical analyses, which account for a variety of other important factors, also offer strong evidence of casualty gaps between communities with different levels of income and education. In Los Angeles, for example, citywide almost 27 percent of residents hold a college degree. By contrast, in the specific L.A. neighborhoods that have lost a young man or woman in Iraq, less than 12 percent of residents graduated from college. Similarly, in New York City, the citywide average median family income is nearly $42,000, while the average in neighborhoods that have experienced an Iraq war casualty is $34,000, 19 percent lower.

Assertions of a casualty gap are not new. In the Civil War, there were cries of a "rich man's war, poor man's fight." But documenting this inequality has proved difficult. Previous studies were limited in scope and produced conflicting findings. This confusion led commentators such as William F. Buckley to describe Vietnam as an "all-American effort" of shared battlefield sacrifice. Our study, however, definitively shows that the burden of war death in Vietnam, Korea and Iraq has not been shouldered equally.

It is possible that the casualty gap is an inescapable consequence of broader social inequity and the military's important role as an engine of opportunity and upward mobility. But the gap also plainly conflicts with a norm of shared military sacrifice that is as old as the republic. George Wash-

See AMERICA'S on Next Page



More questions, more rumors

Last week we discussed a couple of questions recently asked by readers, and several readers responded by asking more questions. A main reason we started this column was to combat the many immigration rumors circulating in the CNMI. As we have said many times, these rumors are not harmless, because people who believe them often miss out on chances to improve or even just maintain their immigration status—or worse, actively harm their situation. The questions we look at today are all related to false rumors.

Question: I am a citizen of the FSM. A friend who says he knows all about immigration told me that after Nov. 28, 2009, I cannot travel in or out of the CNMI without special permission from U.S. immigration. What should I do? Do I have to apply for some form of parole or advance parole?

Answer: FALSE. As a citizen of one of the Freely Associated States (FAS)—the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau (Belau) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands—you are allowed to live and work freely anywhere in the U.S., including the CNMI. This includes the privilege to exit and enter the CNMI without hindrance.

These privileges are granted to citizens of each of the FAS by their separate Compacts of Free Association with the U.S. The CNRA, also called "the federalization statute," had zero effect on the Compacts of Free Association, and zero effect on the privileges granted to the FAS citizens.

This does not mean that you are not subject to U.S. immigration law, however. It is well established that an FAS citizen can be deported from the U.S. for the same reasons that may lead to the deportation of any other alien. Because FAS citizens have a free pass on entering the U.S., and living and working here, the typical reasons for removal of an FAS citizen involve criminal misbehavior, most often "aggravated felonies"—a subject of a great deal of litigation in U.S. immigration courts—or multiple convictions. (CNMI deportations of FAS citizens for criminal convictions were also upheld, prior to implementation of U.S. immigration law.) We understand that there is at least one such case now pending before the U.S. Immigration Court on Saipan.

But if you are a normal, law-abiding FAS citizen living in the CNMI, the same travel rules apply that you are already used to. Tell your well-meaning friend to stop giving legal advice.

■■■

Q: I am a contract worker who just got married to a U.S. citizen a few months ago. I know that I cannot apply for a green card through him because he does not have a job and he is a full-time student at a community college at present. My husband told me that I can apply for a green card only if he has a co-sponsor. What are the requirements for a co-sponsor? And is it true that the green cards that they issue now are only good for two years? Please help.

A: Fortunately, you are misinformed. You can indeed apply for a green card through your husband as long as he is a US citizen. His employment or student status is irrelevant to whether you are eligible to apply. You were eligible from the moment that your marriage became official.

His income is relevant to the minimum income required for an applicant. If there are only two of you living in the household, you will need to show $18,212 yearly income under the current poverty guidelines published by USCIS. You can count both your incomes to meet this requirement. If you fall short, you can get a joint sponsor. The sponsor needs to be a U.S. citizen or a Lawful Permanent Resident (green card holder). The joint sponsor has to show enough income to cover his own household plus you. There does not need to be a family relationship between you and the joint sponsor. A generous friend will do.

The length of the green card you get depends on the length of your marriage at the time you become permanent resident. If you are married for less than two years on that date, you get a two-year conditional green card. In the last three months of the two years following the date that you receive your green card,

See QUESTIONS on Next Page

IMMIGRATION FORUM

By MAYA KARA and BRUCE MAILMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letter to the Editor

Conservatism vs. liberalism

The many battles and challenges we face in the CNMI really boil down to the two basic philosophies of government intervention, the conservative and liberal schools of thought. Simply put, conservatives are against change and liberals are for change. The amazing thing about this is we have citizens and leaders on both sides who seem to think their philosophy is the *only* solution when in reality we need the application of both schools of thoughts to maintain a balance while continuing to grow and change—a lesson that has been taught over and over again in America's history classes. Master politicians have mastered the art of unifying these schools of thoughts on issues in the past but technology and the media are now making it more and more difficult as each school of thought is getting equal exposure to the masses.

We still have people in the CNMI—ultra-conservatives—who will buy the unsupported rhetoric of losing one's culture over facts and reality. But there is another group of people in the CNMI who realize that changes must be made to improve our relationship with the feds, our economic condition and our quality of life. They are the liberals. Both sides have valid concerns but they can't balance the issues facing the CNMI because neither side wants to compromise. The failure to change is also why we are still cutting cost and cutting jobs some five years into the present administration. To make it worse, we are still fighting losing battles with the feds and we still don't have a real economic recovery plan or program. Change is clearly not on the agenda and our style of politics—fighting instead of diplomacy—has truly become our biggest enemy.

The wall of social imperialism built and supported by conservatives in the CNMI has repelled change and everyone who is not of NMD. I told our leaders in 2001 that the WTO would expire in December 2005 and to prepare for the exit of the garment industry in 2006, and what happened? No one listened and no one did anything to prepare because the advice came from an outsider. Five years passed and no one in government did anything and the garment industry ended up leaving us high and dry. The feds told the CNMI about raising the minimum wage for over a decade and the government didn't listen and no one in government did anything. In fact, the Legislature created laws to keep minimum wages low. The result has been the loss of our most valuable resource—our children—who can't wait to go to work on the mainland where they can start at a McDonalds for $8.25 an hour. The feds told our leaders for almost a decade to stop bringing in so many alien laborers and I can even remember them say the local people are going to be the political minority in less than 50 years if the CNMI continues to bring in alien workers but what happened? No one listened to the feds and our leaders even thumbed their noses at the feds by changing the law to allow even more alien workers to enter. Now that federalization has been instituted the conservatives are worried about becoming a minority and its too late—you should have listened. I respect the desire for *indigenous control* and the *invitations to rally* but all the anger that is now being focused on the federal government should be focused on the CNMI leaders who failed to listen and stop bringing in alien workers, but what did we do? Re-elect them and some are still in office almost a decade later!

I just find it amazing to see such a show of concern and anger for not being consulted when the feds have been trying to consult with the CNMI on the issue of alien workers for over a decade. The CNMI is only reaping the disrespect we have sowed, as respect is a reciprocal phenomenon and respect is something the CNMI has not displayed toward the federal government when it comes to federal laws and federal expectations. In other words, *we asked for it*.

Now the conservatives are angry for not being consulted on the status of alien workers and even held a rally to protest Interior's report. Had they listened to the feds they wouldn't be angry at the feds for doing what we should have done years ago: close the CNMI's doors, keep the aliens that were here as they represent the biggest section of our workforce, and many of them are now directly or indirectly tied to the CNMI socially through marriage and births. Many children of alien workers are our top students and even represent the CNMI nationally. Most importantly, they represent a big part of our future professional workforce. It is too late to reverse these trends and we must figure out a way that is in the best interest of *everyone* and not just for the local people. I ask, *are we not our brother's keeper?* Fixing our immigration needs is a challenging task the CNMI has ignored and now the feds are taking the necessary and proper actions to fix our immigration situation and some locals have the audacity to be mad. The saddest part is we still have leaders who are ultra-conservatives and they just don't get it, which leaves the people as a whole stuck in the middle, going nowhere fast, while they fight and we continue to suffer the consequences economically and socially.

My daughter was so right when she described our government as a not-until-we-have-to government. I have often pondered if the problem was our leaders or the people and, given that government is *of, for and by the people*, the answer is obvious—the people and our politics is our problem. The people I'm referring to are those who are still living in the past, those who are promoting discrimination in an American Commonwealth, those who want to fight with the hand that literally feeds us, those who refuse to respect the supreme law and principles of our nation, those who worship with fellow citizens from the mainland and aliens but want to deny them a home next door and the possibility of prosperity in the CNMI, those who put only *their* culture before everything and everyone like no one else has a culture, those who will use American and federal funds for all they can get like a parasite but don't want to share anything in the CNMI, and the list goes on. These are the ultra-conservatives of the CNMI who will fight against change until they have to give in—the *not-until-we-have-to* attitude.

The history of the CNMI and the feds clearly reflects an attitude of not listening or doing anything the feds ask until we have to. We are still fighting the feds instead of trying to work with them in a symbiotic relationship. I'm sure we would be in a much better situation now if we had listened to the feds a decade ago. Now we have to. I do hope the federal government can find a balance to satisfy the majority on both sides of the issue but the lesson should have been learned by now that the next time the feds try to consult with the CNMI we need to be listening instead of giving them the middle finger, especially when it is obvious that many of the conservatives can't take what we dish out.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

QUESTIONS

From Page 10

you will need to file a Form I-751 (Petition to Remove the Conditions of Residence). In a process similar to your original application for adjustment of status, you will need to submit forms and pay a filing fee. You will need to prove that your marriage is valid and, sometimes, you may need to submit to an interview with USCIS. If you are married for more than two years when you apply, you will get a 10-year green card, which is renewable. We discussed Form I-751 in more detail in last week's column, including waivers available for some people who are not able to file a joint petition.

■■■

Q: I was deported from the CNMI several years ago, in a CNMI deportation case. My CNMI adviser tells me that now I can return to the CNMI as an investor, with a U.S. investor's visa.

A: It depends. Just because the CNMI's immigration law is no longer effective does not mean that the U.S. government will not consider the reasons you were deported.

Prior to October 2000, a person deported from the CNMI was barred from re-entry for a minimum of five years. P.L. 12-25 made deportation a permanent bar to re-entry to the CNMI. But CNMI immigration law has been pre-empted by the U.S. Immigration & Nationality Act, as amended by the CNRA, and we cannot say that as a matter of law you will be barred from re-entering the CNMI—or California, Hawaii, New York or any other U.S. state or territory, for that matter. Nor can we say that you will be admitted.

So far, we are not aware of any relevant court cases, but we can speculate about the result if you apply for an investor's visa, and we think you are likely to have an uphill battle, even if your investment meets all the basic requirements. This is because both the Department of State (which handles visa applications from outside the U.S.) and USCIS (which adjust status of persons already in the U.S.) have very great discretion whether to say "yes" or "no." Both agencies are deeply concerned about the moral character of visa applicants, and both seem to follow the same rule we use in our kitchen at home: "When in doubt, throw it out."

In any visa application, you will have to disclose any prior convictions. What we think will happen is that the U.S. adjudicator, whether Department of State or USCIS, will look at the reason you were deported. If you were deported for a serious crime or multiple convictions of lesser crimes, for example, you are not going to be a good candidate for a U.S. visa. Whether or not you will be admitted will depend on whether your conviction makes you inadmissible and, if so, whether there is a waiver available, for which you can qualify. Some prior criminal misbehavior—and some non-criminal violations as well—can result in a permanent bar to admission to the U.S., or a bar for a number of years.

Some bases of deportation under the old CNMI may not be bars, however. For example, the list of reasons for deporting aliens under CNMI law included failing to maintain a current passport, becoming a public charge, or failing to comply with CNMI registration requirements. None of those reasons necessarily imply bad moral character, and we doubt they would be considered as grounds for exclusion under U.S. law.

The point of today's column is the same we have said over and over again: Don't listen to rumors about immigration, no matter whether they are scary or promise some special benefit. If someone tells you something about immigration, check it out by getting informed legal advice.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lexmarianas@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune *at editor@saipantribune.com.*

AMERICA'S

From Page 10

ington proclaimed that every citizen who enjoys the rights and privileges of citizenship "owes not only a proportion of his property but even of his personal service to the defense of it."

What would happen if the nation openly acknowledged the casualty gap? Would citizens rethink questions of war and peace? To find out, we conducted a series of original public opinion survey experiments with nationally representative samples of Americans. We found that citizens informed about the existence of a casualty gap were significantly more likely to oppose ongoing military operations and less willing to support future ones than were their peers who were not informed about casualty inequalities. For example, in evaluating a hypothetical military mission to halt Iran's nuclear weapons program, respondents told about casualty inequalities in the Iraq war said they would tolerate 40 percent fewer casualties to achieve the mission's goals than would their peers who were not given this information.

These experimental results suggest that if Americans were to learn of wartime inequalities, the public would become more circumspect about future military action. However, the casualty gap is not part of our national dialogue. The reason is clear: Casualty inequalities challenge our fundamental American values. Bringing a frank and honest discussion of the casualty gap into the public sphere could significantly alter the tenor of political discourse in Washington.

We call on policymakers, military leaders and the public to acknowledge and discuss the disproportionate wartime burden borne by America's poorest and most disadvantaged communities. Let us remember the full human costs of military action, including the socioeconomic inequality they underscore, and weigh them carefully when crafting American military policy.

Douglas L. Kriner is an assistant professor of political science at Boston University. Francis X. Shen is a fellow in the MacArthur Foundation Law & Neuroscience Project and a visiting scholar at Vanderbilt Law School. They are the authors of the recently published book The Casualty Gap: The Causes and Consequences of American Wartime Inequalities.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼79
Palau	Cloudy	▲86	▼ 7
Yap	Sunny	▲88	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲84	▼78
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼79
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲84	▼78

Around The Globe

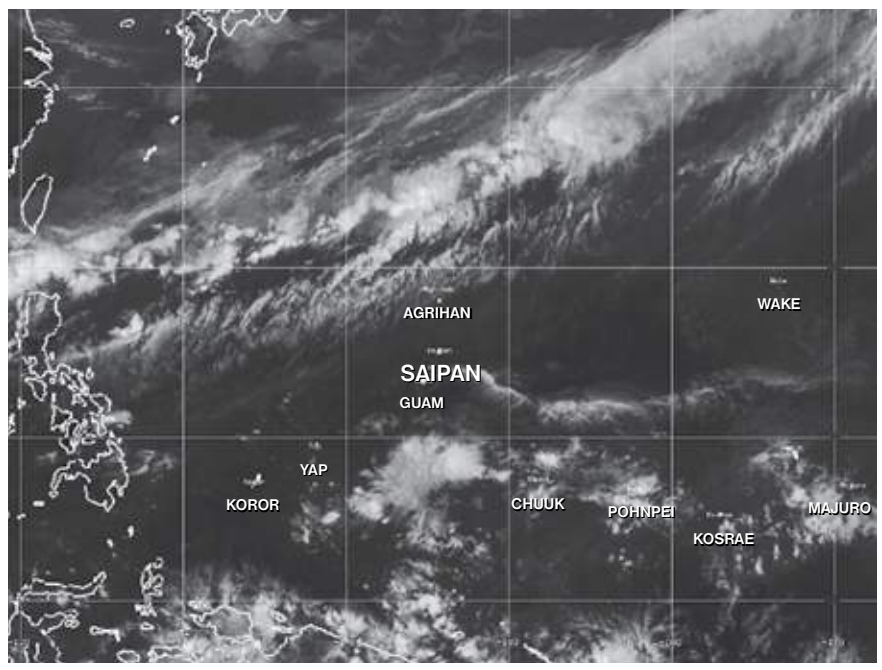
Auckland	Showers	▲63	▼57
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼63
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲79	▼73
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼73
London	Showers	▲55	▼52
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲75	▼57
Manila	Thundershowers	▲93	▼85
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲65	▼46
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼78
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼67
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲73	▼61
Paris	Showers	▲62	▼54
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼56
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼59
Salem	Showers	▲64	▼51
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲62	▼52
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼57
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼59
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼73

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:56 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
9:14 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
4:49 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, MAY 31, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Mid latitude low pressure is centered between Chi Chi Jima and Minami Tori Shima near 25N147E. Southwest winds converging near the low are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms northwest of a line from 19N130E to 19N140E to 25N150E. A surface trough extends southeastward from 9N144E to 4N146E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are present southeast of Yap in an area bounded by a line from 10N145E to 8N149E to 4N147E to 5N139E back to 10N145E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from near Chuuk to Pohnpei within 100 miles of a line from 9N151E to 6N160E and also across the western and southern Marshall Islands within 100 miles of a line from 9N166E to 5N171E to 4N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:44 PM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:44 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:44 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:45 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:45 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:19 PM	9:12 AM
Wednesday	10:58 PM	10:03 AM
Thursday	11:35 PM	10:51 AM
Friday		11:38 AM
Saturday	12:10 AM	12:24 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 27, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	5:55am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:35pm	6:15pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:10am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/703	2:20am	11:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/703	2:50am	11:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	12:10am+1	1, 5 via PUS
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05am	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:20am+1	4, 7 via PUS
C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Memorial Day

Ted Parker of the Pacific Winds Concert Band at yesterday's Memorial Day ceremony at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A Memorial Day B-2 flyover, from the same bomb squadron that, back in 1945, flew out of Tinian and dropped atomic bombs in Japan to help end World War II.

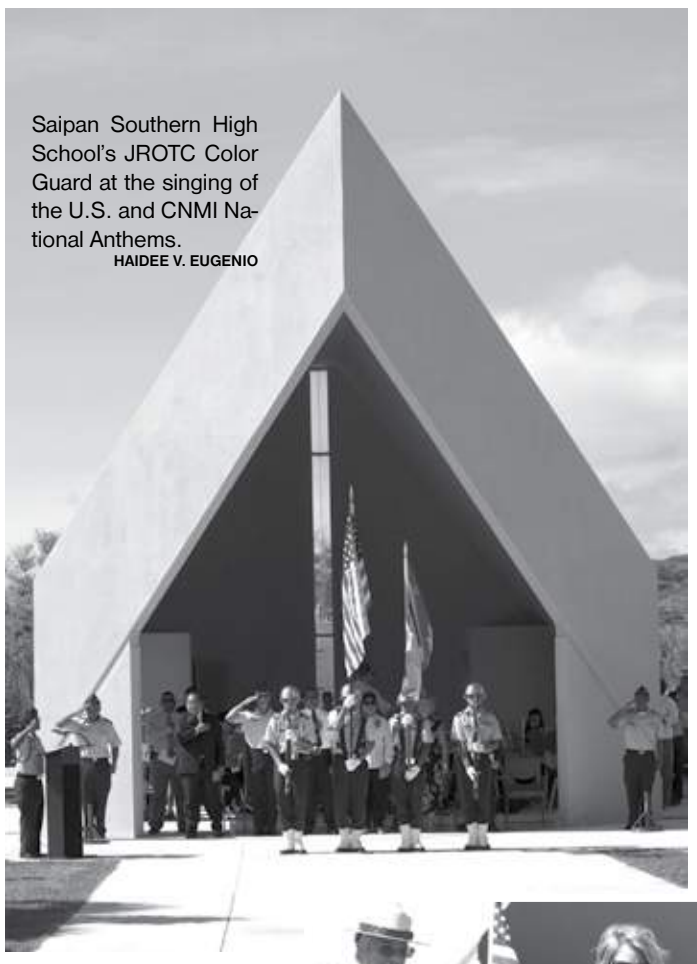
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Col. Tod R. Fingal, right, vice commander of the 36th Wing at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, veterans and other U.S. Navy officials, prepare to lay a wreath as part of yesterday's Memorial Day ceremony in Marpi.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Members of Saipan Southern High School's JROTC Color Guard.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Saipan Southern High School's JROTC Color Guard at the singing of the U.S. and CNMI National Anthems.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Veterans and U.S. Navy officers salute at the wreath laying.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Roderick Jarae H. Pierce, 8, in military uniform, salutes during the wreath laying.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

American Memorial Park Ranger Nancy Kelchner, left, and Rhonda Fingal, right, prepare to place flowers on the graves of fallen soldiers and veterans.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Miniature American flags flutter in the wind as Rhonda Fingal places flowers on the graves of fallen soldiers and veterans at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Col. Tod R. Fingal, vice commander of the 36th Wing at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, delivers a keynote address, while Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, right, looks on.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Sgt. Joaquin Taitano and his son Cody James take part in the Memorial Day ceremony to honor those who served.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Business

Thai tourism seeking recovery from protest turmoil

BANGKOK (AP)—The Red Shirt anti-government protesters have gone home, but Thailand's tourism industry is still seeing red.

Armed soldiers, smoky streets and looted stores were the sad finale to two months of street protests seeking to force new elections. Those images have lingered in many minds, especially for tourists, a little over a week since the protests ended.

Thailand now has the challenges of repairing its image and its tourism industry.

The number of visitors dropped significantly since the protests closed down Bangkok's main shopping and tourist district in early April. Forecasts for this year were revised to 12 million visitors, down from 15 million, according to the Federation of Thai Tourism Associations.

The political standoff and the subsequent violent clashes caused losses of about 60 billion to 70 billion baht ($1.9 billion to $2.2 billion) in tourism-related revenues, according to Atthachai Burakamkovit, permanent secretary of the Tourism and Sports Ministry. The government is talking with trade organizations to pinpoint the exact amount of the losses.

"Different trade associations have their own estimates to serve their own purposes," said Atthachai.

Already, the government has earmarked 5 billion baht ($154 million) to help tourism-related businesses affected by the turmoil and rioting. The package is awaiting the Cabinet's approval.

"Using government funds to help private companies is always a difficult situation. And I don't think anybody will hold their breath while this occurs," said Bill Heinecke, chairman and CEO of Minor International, which operates 16 hotels in Thailand, including the luxury Four Seasons Hotel Bangkok.

The Four Seasons, on the front lines of the protests, was forced to close for seven weeks and expects to lose at least 100 million baht ($3 million) as a result. Several other nearby up-market hostelries were also shuttered.

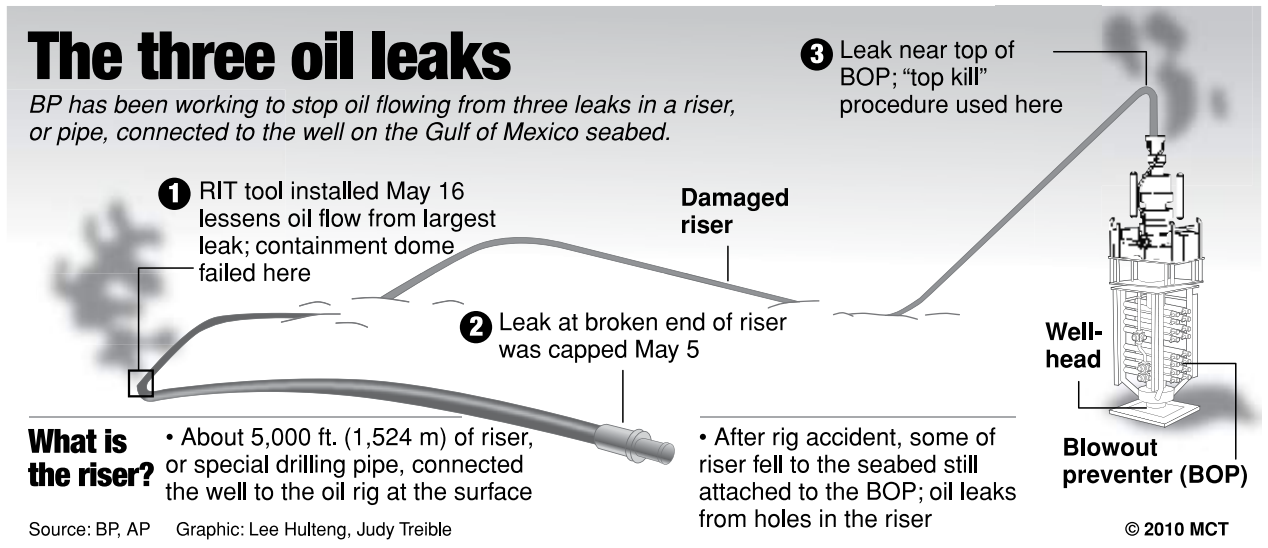
After fix fail, a dispiriting summer of oil, anger

BOOTHVILLE, La. (AP)—There is still a hole in the Earth, crude oil is still spewing from it and there is still, excruciatingly, no end in sight. After trying and trying again, one of the world's largest corporations, backed and pushed by the world's most powerful government, can't stop the runaway gusher.

As desperation grows and ecological misery spreads, the operative word on the ground now is, incredibly, August—the earliest moment that a real resolution could be at hand. And even then, there's no guarantee of success. For the United States and the people of its beleaguered Gulf Coast, a dispiriting summer of oil and anger lies dead ahead.

Oh ... and the Atlantic hurricane season begins Tuesday.

The latest attempt—using a remote robotic arm to stuff golf balls and assorted debris into the gash in the seafloor—didn't work. On Sunday, as churches echoed with prayers for a solution, BP PLC said it would focus on containment rather than plugging the undersea puncture wound, effectively redirecting the mess it made rather than stopping it.


The three oil leaks
BP has been working to stop oil flowing from three leaks in a riser, or pipe, connected to the well on the Gulf of Mexico seabed.
1 RIT tool installed May 16 lessens oil flow from largest leak; containment dome failed here
2 Leak at broken end of riser was capped May 5
3 Leak near top of BOP; "top kill" procedure used here
Damaged riser
Well-head
Blowout preventer (BOP)
What is the riser?
• About 5,000 ft. (1,524 m) of riser, or special drilling pipe, connected the well to the oil rig at the surface
• After rig accident, some of riser fell to the seabed still attached to the BOP; oil leaks from holes in the riser
Source: BP, AP Graphic: Lee Hulteng, Judy Treible
© 2010 MCT

"We failed to wrestle this beast to the ground," said BP Managing Director Bob Dudley, doing the rounds of the Sunday talk shows.

Trouble is, the longer it lasts, the more beasts emerge ready to wrestle. Crude-coated birds are becoming a frequent sight along coastal areas. At the sea's bottom, no one knows what the oil will do to species like the newly discovered bottom-dwelling pancake batfish—and others that remain unknown but just as threatened.

Perhaps most alarming of all, 40 days and 40 nights after the Deepwater Horizon blew up and began the underwater deluge, hurricane season is at hand. It brings the horrifying possibility of wind-whipped, oil-soaked waves and water spinning ashore and coating areas much further inland. Imagine Katrina plus oil spill.

On its own, the spill is already the worst in American history—worse, even, than the 1989 Exxon Valdez disaster. It has released between 18 million and 40 million gallons of oil into the Gulf, according to government estimates that are, like all numbers involved in this brouhaha, subject to vigorous debate.

The trepidation is less disputed. "This is probably the biggest environmental disaster we've ever faced in this country," White House Energy and Climate Change Advisor Carol Browner said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

At some point—the widespread debut of the BP "spillcam" is as good a delineation point as any—this tipped, in the national conversation, from a destructive event into a calamitous, open-ended saga. And for the bruised and cantankerous American psyche, it could not come at a worse time.

Fear is afoot everywhere, and polarization prevails. Faith in institutions—corporations, government, the media—is down. Americans are angry, and they long ago grew accustomed to expecting the resolution of problems in very short order, even if reality rarely works that way.

So when something undefined and uncontrollable happens, they speculate in all the modern forums about collusion and nefarious dealings. In the process, this tale of environmental disaster and economic damage cripples the sea-to-shining-sea narrative that usually offers Americans comfort during uncertain times.

Fed chief sees delicate dance ahead

WASHINGTON (AP)—The delicate task ahead for the Federal Reserve and other central banks is deciding when to start boosting interest rates and reeling in all the stimulus pumped out during the global financial crisis, Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke said Sunday.

Bernanke, however, didn't provide any new clues on that front.

As is typically the case in the early stages of an economic recovery, central bank officials "will have to weigh the risks of a premature exit against those of leaving expansionary policy in place for too long," Bernanke said in prepared remarks to a conference sponsored by the Bank of Korea in Seoul, South Korea.

The Fed's chief's remarks were prerecorded and delivered via video link.

Tightening credit too soon risks short-circuiting countries' economic recoveries. Waiting too long could risk unleashing inflation and sparking a dangerous new wave of speculation like the one that powered the housing boom and its devastating bust.

Bernanke

Because economic conditions vary country by country, the appropriate time to start tightening credit, varies, too, Bernanke said. "To guide these important decisions, each central bank will have to carefully monitor economic developments in its own jurisdiction," he said.

In the United States, the Fed has held a key interest rate at a record low near zero since December 2008. Just last month, he repeated a pledge to hold rates at super-low levels for an "extended period" to nurture the fledging recovery.

Fears that a spreading debt crisis in Europe could hurt the U.S. recovery are prompting some economists to predict the Fed will be on the sidelines for longer than anticipated. A growing number of economists now think the Fed will hold rates at record lows—well into next year, or perhaps into 2012. Just a month ago, many had thought the Fed would start raising rates near the end of this year.

Under the leadership of its new governor, Kim Choong-soo, the Bank of Korea last month also left its key interest rate at a record low of 2 percent. Kim and other BOK policymakers must eventually decide when South Korea's economic recovery is strong enough to withstand higher borrowing costs.

British Airways cabin crew launch new strikes

LONDON (AP)—British Airways cabin crew launched a new five-day strike Sunday as a bitter dispute with management over pay and working conditions dragged on with no sign of any breakthrough.

Many flights to and from London's Heathrow—Europe's busiest airport—were affected by the walkout. But the airline insisted it could operate more than half of its services because more cabin crew than expected had decided to cross the picket line.

Cabin crew walked off their jobs May 24 for five days and began the new round of strikes Sunday after talks collapsed Friday. They plan to strike for another five days beginning June 5, if a solution to the long-running dispute is not found.

Seven days of walkouts in March over the same dispute cost BA around 43 million pounds ($63 million).

The two sides are at odds over staffing on long-haul flights and other work conditions.

The airline said it planned to fly more than 70 percent of its long-haul flights, compared to the 60 percent it had operated during last week's strike. Fifty-five percent of British Airways' short-haul flights will take off, slightly more than the 50 percent last week.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Zimbabwe paper: US trying to stop diamond sales

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—A newspaper loyal to Zimbabwe's ruling party is accusing the U.S. of trying to stop international sales of Zimbabwean diamonds. The Sunday Mail quotes an e-mail from a U.S. State Department official urging the international diamond control body to ban Zimbabwean diamonds. The paper calls it "a well-orchestrated Western-led campaign" against the regime of President Robert Mugabe. An official from the international diamond control body, Abbey Chikane, claims documents—possibly including the quoted e-mail—were stolen from his luggage by Zimbabwean security agents earlier this week. Kimberley Process investigators have previously recommended Zimbabwe's suspension over their findings of illicit trading and human rights abuses.

Oil rises above $74 as US jobs report awaited

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices rose above $74 a barrel Monday in Asia as traders look to a U.S. jobs report this week for clues about the strength of the global economic recovery. Benchmark crude for July delivery was up 26 cents at $74.23 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract lost 58 cents to settle at $73.97 on Friday. Trading volume was light as markets are closed in the U.S. on Monday for the Memorial Day holiday. Oil prices have swung this month between $87 a barrel and $64 as fears that a debt crisis in Europe could spread and undermine the global economy rocked financial markets.

Radioactive fish near Vt. nuke plant deemed common

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP)—When a fish taken from the Connecticut River recently tested positive for radioactive strontium-90, suspicion focused on the nearby Vermont Yankee nuclear plant as the likely source. Operators of the troubled 38-year-old nuclear plant on the banks of the river, where work is under way to clean up leaking radioactive tritium, revealed this month that it also found soil contaminated with strontium-90, an isotope linked to bone cancer and leukemia. Three days later, officials said a fish caught four miles upstream from the reactor in February had tested positive for strontium-90 in its bones. State officials say they don't believe the contamination came from Vermont Yankee.

Nation

Oil complicates forecasts on hurricane season eve

VENICE, La. (AP)—As hurricane season approaches, the giant oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico takes weather forecasters into nearly uncharted waters.

The Gulf is a superhighway for hurricanes that form or explode over pools of hot water, then usually move north or west toward the coast. The site of the sunken rig is along the general path of some of the worst storms ever recorded, including Hurricane Camille, which wiped out the Mississippi coast in 1969, and Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

The season officially starts Tuesday, and while scientists seem to agree that the sprawling slick isn't likely to affect the formation of a storm, the real worry is that a hurricane might turn the millions of gallons of floating crude into a crashing black surf.

Some fear a horrific combination of damaging winds and large waves pushing oil deeper into estuaries and wetlands and coating miles of debris-littered coastline in a pungent, sticky mess.

And the worst effects of an oil-soaked storm surge might not be felt for years: If oil is pushed deep into coastal marshes that act as a natural speed bump for storm surges, areas including New Orleans could be more vulnerable to bad storms for a long time.

Experts say there are few, if any, studies on such a scenario.

In this "untreaded water ... it's tough to theorize about what would happen," said Joe Bastardi, chief long-range hurricane forecaster with AccuWeather.com.

The lone precedent, experts agree, is the summer of 1979, when storms hampered efforts to contain a spill from a Mexican rig called Ixtoc 1 that eventually dumped 140 million gallons off the Yucatan Peninsula. Hurricane Henri, a Category 1 storm, damaged a 310-ton steel cap designed to stop the leak that would become the worst peacetime spill in history.

Still, while oil from that spill coated miles of beaches in Texas and Mexico, tropical storms and unseasonable cold fronts that year helped reverse offshore currents earlier than normal and drive oil away from the coast. Storms also helped disperse some of the oil, Bastardi said.

"That's what I think would happen this time," he said. "I'm sure a hurricane would do a great deal of diluting the oil, spreading it out where the concentrations would be much less damaging."

AP

Jolie Van Gilder, left, holds her mother's hand during a rally against BP PLC and the Gulf oil spill, in New Orleans, Sunday, May 30, 2010.

At least 19 million gallons, according to the latest estimates, have leaked from the seabottom 5,000 feet below the surface since the April 20 explosion of BP PLC's Deepwater Horizon rig, which killed 11. Syrupy oil has crept into Louisiana's marshes, coating plants, killing some birds and threatening wetlands.

The threat to the marshes could have implications lasting well beyond this hurricane season. Louisiana already has lost huge swaths of coastal wetlands in recent decades, and the oil is a major threat to the long-term viability of that delicate ecosystem.

If the plants that hold the marshes together were to die at the roots, the base would wash away, leaving deeper water and less of a buffer for hurricanes, said Joseph Suhayda, director of the Louisiana State University Hurricane Center.

"That would increase the amount of surge inland," Suhayda said.

Even without considering hurricanes, there is uncertainty about whether marsh cane and other plants will die to the roots or just above the surface from this oil spill. If the plants' roots survive, they could come back over time. If not, the results could be catastrophic.

"I don't think anybody is going to know precisely. It depends on the quantity of the oil," said David White, a biological sciences professor at Loyola University New Orleans.

There is a chance that a hurricane or tropical storm could offer wetlands a reprieve from the oil, at the expense of areas farther inland. A storm surge of several feet, even if it is carrying oil, would pass over the top of the outer, low-lying marshes and disperse the mess in less toxic amounts, Suhayda said.

But such a storm could also push oil into freshwater marshes where ducks and geese thrive, White said.

ACROSS THE NATION

5 passengers injured when trail derails in Ill.

GRANITE CITY, Ill. (AP)—Amtrak says five people suffered minor injuries when a passenger train derailed in suburban St. Louis. Amtrak spokesman Marc Magliari says the last two coaches on the train left the tracks Sunday evening in Granite City, Ill. The train was headed from St. Louis to Chicago. Magliari says five of the train's 63 passengers were treated at hospitals for minor injuries. Amtrak gave the rest of the passengers the option of going onto Chicago on charter buses or returning to St. Louis. Magliari says it's not yet known what caused the two cars to leave the tracks. The train had two locomotives that were pulling five coach cars. The railway is owned by Union Pacific and Kansas City Southern. The track owners and Amtrak are investigating.

Illinois town ups citations for unkempt yards

PEORIA, Ill. (AP)—Residents of the Illinois town of Peoria may want to take time this weekend to mow their lawns. That's because the city has boosted the number of citations for unruly grass by more than 73 percent this year. Those fines begin at $30 but can escalate to as much as $500 for grass that's at least 10 inches tall. Records show the city has issued 1,069 citations so far this. That's up from 617 the city gave out through May of 2009. Code enforcement manager Linda Lard says the city is handing out more citations for unmowed grass because of an increase in foreclosures and abandoned property. Officials have also issued about 2 percent more work orders to have private property mowed. That costs about $70.

NYC man survives fall with spike impaled in head

NEW YORK (AP)—A 21-year-old musician has survived a fall from a New York City balcony in which his head became impaled on a spiked metal fence. Police say Nicholas Blossom was intoxicated at a party in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood when he fell from a third-floor balcony at around 4 a.m. Saturday. They say he landed headfirst on the fence of the second-floor balcony of an adjoining building. Rescuers used an electric saw to detach Blossom from the fence. He was taken to Bellevue Hospital, where he was in stable condition. Blossom plays drums in a rock band called Alaska Alaska.

Mullen wishes Congress had waited on gay ban vote

WASHINGTON (AP)—The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said Sunday he would have preferred that Congress had waited before voting to repeal the "don't ask, don't tell" law that bans gays from serving openly in the military.

Adm. Mike Mullen did not directly criticize a House vote on Friday that marked a step toward repealing the ban. But he said it would have been better for lawmakers to wait until the Pentagon completed its review of how to make the repeal work. That study, due in December, is based on a current survey of troops and their families.

"Ideally, I would certainly have preferred that legislation not be brought forward in terms of the change until we are completed with that review," Mullen said.

The legislation, he noted, gives the Pentagon until year's end to finish its study and stipulates that he and Defense Secretary Robert Gates and President Barack Obama must certify that the military is prepared to make the change before the repeal takes effect.

Mullen

There is worry among some in the military and in Congress that the House vote short-circuited the process of consulting with troops and their families.

"It is really critical to understand the points of view of those it will affect the most as we look at the implementation challenges, should the law change," said Mullen, who favors lifting the ban.

"So we will complete that review and certainly incorporate what we learned from that into implementation when that time comes."

A senior defense official on Friday said troops with concerns about the repeal are less willing to speak freely because the vote makes the outcome clear. The official, who is knowledgeable about the troop consultations, spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the Pentagon response.

Some troops feel double-crossed, the official said, because they had been told that nothing would happen quickly and were assured that the Pentagon would take their individual concerns into account. These misgivings about the political process have been aired over the past week at town-hall style events where troops are encouraged to share any doubts about repeal, the official said.

NJ sailor's death gives rise to legal battle

GARFIELD, N.J. (AP)—A federal judge found the Navy 80 percent negligent in the training death of Seaman Freddie Porter Jr., when it awarded $1.25 million to his mother, Cassita Massiah, last December.

As it stands, it won't be the Navy paying Massiah. Instead, a company found to be 20 percent negligent—the owner of the tugboat that overran Porter's small Navy vessel more than two years ago—has been ordered to pay the total damages.

The decision by U.S. District Judge Henry Coke Morgan Jr. has spawned a legal battle that could alter how the government defends itself in similar lawsuits.

The seeming inequity stems from long-held legal precedent of sovereign immunity that protects the government from lawsuits—in this case, by military personnel injured or killed in the course of service. The government can be sued by a third party—a product manufacturer, for example—to contribute to a damage award, but those suits rarely succeed, according to Daniel Rose, an attorney representing Massiah.

If a federal appeals court holds the Navy liable for damages, however, the case would likely go to the Supreme Court, which hasn't ruled definitively on the issue, Rose said.

Police find head believed to be slain S. Calif man

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Authorities searching a Long Beach park found the final missing body part—a severed head—believed to belong to a college student killed and dismembered in a double murder-for-profit plot in Orange County, police said Sunday.

FBI agents and police from Costa Mesa and Long Beach searched El Dorado Park with cadaver dogs for two days before finding the head thought to be Samuel Herr, 26, on Saturday, Costa Mesa police Sgt. Patrick Wessel said.

An arm and hand were found at the park Friday, and authorities had said the head was the only body part still missing. A coroner will officially determine whether the remains were Herr, Wessel said.

Herr's Costa Mesa neighbor Daniel Wozniak, 26, is accused of killing and dismembering Herr and killing Herr's friend Juri Kibuishi for money.

Wozniak was charged with two counts of murder Friday, just hours before he was scheduled to get married in another Long Beach park.

He was being held without bail Sunday at Orange County Jail. He was scheduled to be arraigned by videoconference Tuesday.

Asia

Russians to study warship sinking probe

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Russian experts arrived in Seoul on Monday to review findings of an investigation that blamed North Korea for the deadly sinking of a South Korean warship, as the South sought to build support for U.N. punishment of the North.

If Russia endorses the multinational probe's conclusions, the move could convince China and other major powers to support possible U.N. sanctions against Pyongyang for the sinking two months ago of the Cheonan, which killed 46 sailors.

The South Koreans shared the investigation's findings with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao last weekend before a summit, but Beijing has yet to blame North Korea or support any potential U.N. action against its longtime ally.

Wen is now in Japan, where he was expected to face more pressure to censure North Korea. On Monday, he met with Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama, who said Tokyo strongly supports Seoul's plans to bring North Korea before the U.N. Security Council for sanctions or condemnation.

North Korea has denied sinking the ship and has said the multinational investigation—involving America, Britain, Sweden and Australia—was a biased probe conducted by South Korea's allies.

A Russian endorsement of the investigation could greatly contribute to the legitimacy of the conclusions. Like China, Moscow is a traditional North Korean ally and a veto-holding permanent council member.

The Russian team—including torpedo and submarine experts—arrived Monday and were to stay in South Korea for several days as they review the investigation results and examine the ship's wreckage, said a Defense Ministry official who spoke on condition of anonymity citing department policy.

War of words

In response to the sinking of one of its navy ships, South Korea has said it will no longer allow North Korean vessels to cross its maritime boundaries.

South Korean maritime boundaries

© 2010 MCT
Source: VLIZ Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase
Graphic: Chicago Tribune

Polls: Support for Japanese PM falls to 17 percent

TOKYO (AP)—Public support for Japan's embattled prime minister fell to 17 percent amid rising calls for his resignation over his broken campaign promise to move a U.S. military base off a southern island, polls showed Monday.

Hatoyama

The dismal approval rating came a day after a small party opted to leave Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama's three-party coalition in protest over his decision Friday to keep the U.S. base on Okinawa, weakening the alliance ahead of a July election.

A survey by the major daily Asahi found the approval rating for Hatoyama's Cabinet was down 4 percentage points from a previous poll in mid-May to a record low of 17 percent.

His disapproval rating jumped to 70 percent from 64 percent, the Asahi said.

Hatoyama, who came to power in September 2009, had pledged to move the U.S. base off Okinawa. But he announced Friday it would stay, a decision broadly in line with a 2006 deal forged by the previous Japanese government.

The move infuriated Okinawans who have long shouldered the heavy U.S. military presence. Okinawa alone houses more than half of the 47,000 U.S. troops in Japan, stationed under a bilateral defense alliance.

ASIAN BRIEFS

4 soldiers killed in Philippines' jungle ambush

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine troops rescued a soldier and recovered the bodies of four others killed in a jungle ambush by communist guerrillas, officials said Monday. At least 300 soldiers were deployed by helicopters and trucks near Presentacion township in Camarines Sur province, about 155 miles (250 kilometers) southeast of Manila, to hunt down about 40 New People's Army rebels behind the deadly attacks over the weekend, regional spokesman Maj. Harold Cabunoc said. The country's Marxist insurgency, one of Asia's longest, has continued to rage despite a deadline by outgoing President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to crush it by the end of her term on June 30. The rebels initially shot dead one of several soldiers guarding a government road project on Saturday. Twelve soldiers searching for the attackers were ambushed later in the day leaving four dead, Cabunoc said.

NATO general in Afghanistan: Taliban train in Iran

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The commander of NATO and U.S. forces in Afghanistan said Sunday there is "clear evidence" that some Taliban fighters have trained in Iran. Gen. Stanley McChrystal told reporters in the Afghan capital that Iran—Afghanistan's western neighbor—has generally assisted the Afghan government in fighting the insurgent group. "There is, however, clear evidence of Iranian activity—in some cases providing weaponry and training to the Taliban—that is inappropriate," he said. McChrystal said NATO forces are working to stop both the training and the weapons trafficking. Last month, McChrystal said there were indications that Taliban were training in Iran, but not very many and not in a way that it appeared it was part of an Iranian government policy. He did not give details on how many people have trained in Iran at Sunday's news conference.

Malaysia minister: God made animals for testing

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—A Malaysian minister defended an Indian company's plans to build an animal testing medicine lab in his state, saying Monday that God created monkeys and rats for experiments to benefit humans. The plans by India's Vivo BioTech Ltd. to set up a biotechnology center in southern Malacca state has come under fire by activists because it will conduct tests on dogs and primates to make medicines. The activists say Malaysia has no regulations on animal research, which could lead to test subjects being abused. But Malacca Chief Minister Mohamad Ali Rustam said the lab had received state approval, and animal testing was necessary to make drugs. The project is still in the planning phase.

World

Tropical storm kills 99 in Central America

AP

A man tries to use a public phone in Palin, south of Guatemala CIty after an avalanche triggered by tropical storm Agatha hit the village on Sunday, May 30, 2010.

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)—The death toll in Central America from landslides and flooding triggered by the year's first tropical storm surged to 99 on Sunday, as authorities struggled to clear roads of debris and reach cut-off communities.

Rains from the remnants of Tropical Storm Agatha have pounded an area stretching from southern Mexico nearly to Nicaragua. They eased somewhat on Sunday, but rivers continued to rise and word of deaths from landslides was still filtering out from isolated areas.

As of Sunday evening, 112,000 people in Guatemala had been evacuated, many to shelters.

Government disaster relief spokesman David de Leon said 82 people were killed in the poor Central American country as rains unleashed lethal landslides across the country. Another 53 people were reported missing.

Agatha made landfall Saturday near the nation's border with Mexico as a tropical storm with winds up to 45 mph (75 kph) and was dissipating rapidly Sunday over the mountains of western Guatemala.

In El Salvador, President Mauricio Funes warned that the danger had not yet passed and reported nine deaths.

"Although the storm appears to be diminishing in intensity, the situation across the country remains critical," Funes said.

Future pope refused defrocking of convicted priest

MATT SEDENSKY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

The future Pope Benedict XVI refused to defrock an American priest who confessed to molesting numerous children and even served prison time for it, simply because the cleric wouldn't agree to the discipline. The case provides the latest evidence of how changes in church law under Pope John Paul II frustrated and hamstrung U.S. bishops struggling with an abuse crisis that would eventually explode.

Documents obtained by The Associated Press from court filings in the case of the late Rev. Alvin Campbell of Illinois show Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, following church law at the time, turned down a bishop's plea to remove the priest for no other reason than the abuser's refusal to go along with it.

"The petition in question cannot be admitted in as much as it lacks the request of Father Campbell himself," Ratzinger wrote in a July 3, 1989, letter to Bishop Daniel Ryan of the Diocese of Springfield, Ill.

With the church still recovering from a notable departure of priests in the 1970s to marry, John Paul made it tougher to leave the priesthood after assuming the papacy in 1978, saying their vocation was a lifelong one.

WORLD BRIEFS

Israeli army: More than 10 killed on Gaza flotilla

JERUSALEM (AP)—The Israeli military says more than 10 pro-Palestinian activists have been killed after attacking naval commandos who were halting an aid flotilla heading toward the blockaded Gaza Strip. The army says the soldiers were attacked with knives and clubs as they boarded the six vessels Monday. It says the violence turned deadly after one of the activists grabbed a weapon from one of the commandos. The weapon discharged, though it wasn't clear whether the activist fired it or if it went off accidentally. The army says dozens of people were wounded, both soldiers and activists. Israeli Arab groups say a prominent activist is among the wounded. Israeli police say they have heightened security around the country.

Man arrested on warrant after flight diverted

WASHINGTON (AP)—An Aeromexico flight from Paris to Mexico City was diverted to Montreal on Sunday when the U.S. denied the flight access to its airspace after a man named in an outstanding warrant was reported aboard, an official said. The man, whose name officials did not release, was removed from the plane at Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport and arrested, said Lauren Gaches, a spokeswoman for the Transportation Security Administration. Other passengers on Aeromexico Flight 006 from Charles De Gaulle Airport to Mexico City International Airport were re-screened and allowed to re-board the flight, Gaches said. As a matter of policy, the TSA does not confirm or deny whether a person appears on a government watch list.

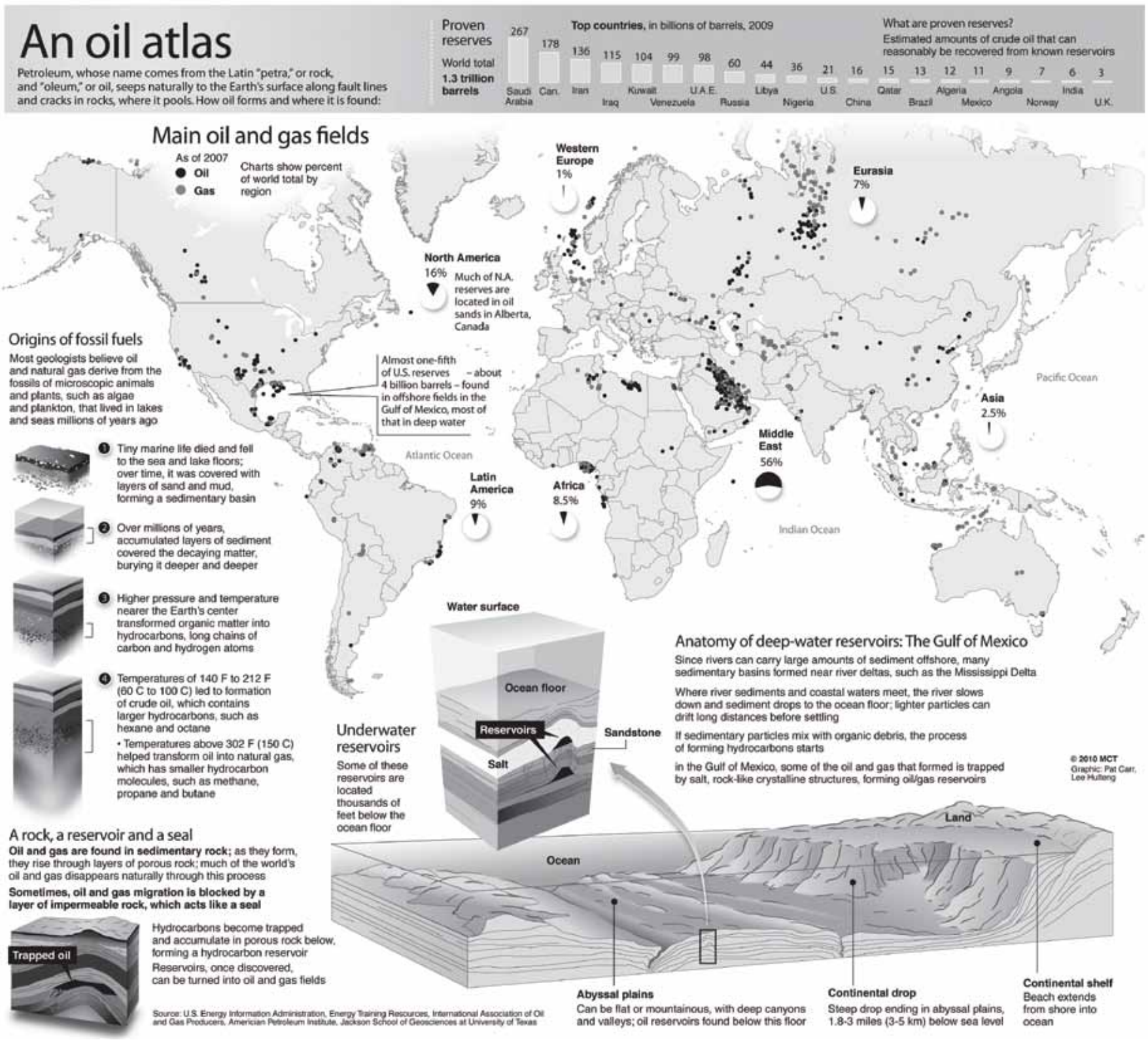
Malawi gay couple keep low profile after pardon

BLANTYRE, Malawi (AP)—A gay couple from Malawi have kept out of the public eye after being pardoned and freed from prison, in what a relative said Sunday was a deliberate decision prompted by the conservative view of homosexuality in the southern African country. Tiwonge Chimbalanga and Steven Monjeza were released late Saturday, hours after President Bingu wa Mutharika pardoned them without condition. But in giving his pardon, which he said was on "humanitarian grounds only," Mutharika warned that homosexuality remains illegal in the conservative southern African country. Activists said late Saturday that they were searching for a safe house for the couple, fearing they could be attacked upon release. The couple's lawyer, Mauya Msuku, said he had not seen either of the men since their release.

Focus

Quest for oil leaves trail of damage across the globe

By TOM KNUDSON
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS


An oil atlas
Petroleum, whose name comes from the Latin "petra," or rock, and "oleum," or oil, seeps naturally to the Earth's surface along fault lines and cracks in rocks, where it pools. How oil forms and where it is found:
Proven reserves
World total 1.3 trillion barrels
Top countries, in billions of barrels, 2009
Saudi Arabia 267
Can. 178
Iran 136
Iraq 115
Kuwait 104
Venezuela 99
U.A.E. 98
Russia 60
Libya 44
Nigeria 36
U.S. 21
China 16
Qatar 15
Brazil 13
Algeria 12
Mexico 11
Angola 9
Norway 7
India 6
U.K. 3
What are proven reserves?
Estimated amounts of crude oil that can reasonably be recovered from known reservoirs
Main oil and gas fields
As of 2007
Oil
Gas
Charts show percent of world total by region
North America 16%
Much of N.A. reserves are located in oil sands in Alberta, Canada
Western Europe 1%
Eurasia 7%
Latin America 9%
Africa 8.5%
Middle East 56%
Asia 2.5%
Pacific Ocean
Atlantic Ocean
Indian Ocean
Origins of fossil fuels
Most geologists believe oil and natural gas derive from the fossils of microscopic animals and plants, such as algae and plankton, that lived in lakes and seas millions of years ago
Almost one-fifth of U.S. reserves – about 4 billion barrels – found in offshore fields in the Gulf of Mexico, most of that in deep water
1 Tiny marine life died and fell to the sea and lake floors; over time, it was covered with layers of sand and mud, forming a sedimentary basin
2 Over millions of years, accumulated layers of sediment covered the decaying matter, burying it deeper and deeper
3 Higher pressure and temperature nearer the Earth's center transformed organic matter into hydrocarbons, long chains of carbon and hydrogen atoms
4 Temperatures of 140 F to 212 F (60 C to 100 C) led to formation of crude oil, which contains larger hydrocarbons, such as hexane and octane
• Temperatures above 302 F (150 C) helped transform oil into natural gas, which has smaller hydrocarbon molecules, such as methane, propane and butane
A rock, a reservoir and a seal
Oil and gas are found in sedimentary rock; as they form, they rise through layers of porous rock; much of the world's oil and gas disappears naturally through this process
Sometimes, oil and gas migration is blocked by a layer of impermeable rock, which acts like a seal
Trapped oil
Hydrocarbons become trapped and accumulate in porous rock below, forming a hydrocarbon reservoir
Reservoirs, once discovered, can be turned into oil and gas fields
Water surface
Ocean floor
Reservoirs
Salt
Sandstone
Underwater reservoirs
Some of these reservoirs are located thousands of feet below the ocean floor
Anatomy of deep-water reservoirs: The Gulf of Mexico
Since rivers can carry large amounts of sediment offshore, many sedimentary basins formed near river deltas, such as the Mississippi Delta
Where river sediments and coastal waters meet, the river slows down and sediment drops to the ocean floor; lighter particles can drift long distances before settling
If sedimentary particles mix with organic debris, the process of forming hydrocarbons starts
in the Gulf of Mexico, some of the oil and gas that formed is trapped by salt, rock-like crystalline structures, forming oil/gas reservoirs
© 2010 MCT
Graphic: Pat Carr, Lee Hulteng
Land
Ocean
Abyssal plains
Can be flat or mountainous, with deep canyons and valleys; oil reservoirs found below this floor
Continental drop
Steep drop ending in abyssal plains, 1.8-3 miles (3-5 km) below sea level
Continental shelf
Beach extends from shore into ocean
Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, Energy Training Resources, International Association of Oil and Gas Producers, American Petroleum Institute, Jackson School of Geosciences at University of Texas

Like many of her neighbors, Celina Harpe is angry about the oil pollution at her doorstep. No longer can she eat the silvery fish that dart along the shore near her home. Even the wind that hurries over the water reeks of oil waste.

"I get so mad," she said. "I feel very sad."

Harpe, 70, isn't a casualty of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. She lives in a remote corner of Alberta, Canada, where another oil field that's vital to the United States is damaging one of the world's most important ecosystems: Canada's northern forest.

Across the globe, people such as Harpe in oil-producing regions are watching the catastrophe in the Gulf with a mixture of horror, hope and resignation. To some, the black tide is a global event that finally may awaken the world to the real cost of oil.

"This is a call to attention for all humanity," said Pablo Fajardo, a lawyer in Ecuador who's suing Chevron over oil pollution in the Amazon on behalf of 30,000 plaintiffs.

"Oil has a price," he added, "but water, life and a clean environment are worth much more."

Others say previous oil disasters haven't changed things much, and this one won't, either.

"We're addicted to oil, so the beat will go on," said Richard Thomas, an environmentalist in Newfoundland, Canada, where drilling rigs pepper the coast. "Oil companies will make absolutely sure we don't check ourselves into hydrocarbon rehab anytime soon."

There's no denying that the rust-red plumes of oil and tar balls in the Gulf of Mexico are a potential ecological calamity for American Southern shores. More than half the petroleum consumed in this country, however, is imported from other countries, where damage from exploration and drilling is more common but goes largely unnoticed.

No one's tallied the damage worldwide, but it includes at least 200 square miles of ruined wildlife habitat in Alberta, more than 18 billion gallons of toxic wastewater spilled into the rainforests of Ecuador, and a parade of purple-black oil slicks that skim across Africa's Niger Delta, where more than 2,000 polluted sites are estimated to need cleaning up.

"The Gulf spill can be seen as a picture of what happens in the oil fields of Nigeria and other parts of Africa," Nnimmo Bassey, a human rights activist and the head of Environmental Rights Action, the Nigeria chapter of Friends of the Earth, said in an e-mail.

"We see frantic efforts being made to stop the spill in the USA," Bassey added. "In Nigeria, oil companies largely ignore their spills, cover them up and destroy people's livelihood and environments."

Despite calls for more domestic drilling and new sources of energy, America's reliance on foreign oil has climbed steadily over the years, from 44.5 percent of consumption in 1995 to 57 percent in 2008.

"Spills, leaks and deliberate discharges are happening in oil fields all over the world, and very few people seem to care," said Judith Kimerling, a professor of law and policy at the City University of New York and the author of "Amazon Crude," a book about oil development in Ecuador.

"No one is accepting responsibility," Kimerling said. "Our fingerprint is on those disasters because we are such a major consumer of oil."

The United States burns through 19.5 million barrels of oil a day—one-quarter of the world's consumption and more than China, Japan, India and Russia combined. That's 2.7 gallons a day for every man, woman and child, one of highest rates in the world.

The biggest hope for paring the nation's dependence on foreign oil lies in the Gulf of Mexico and along the Alaska and California coasts, but that potential treasure remains largely untapped. Offshore production has dropped in recent years, from 2.3 million barrels a day in 2003 to 1.8 million in 2008.

The Gulf spill is likely to shrink output even more and increase foreign imports. "We must find a way to do this more safely," Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., said at a Senate hearing last Tuesday.

If oil production moves abroad, Landrieu said, "We will export some of these problems to countries less equipped and less inclined to prevent this kind of catastrophic disaster."

Others, however, say that such drilling closer to home is too risky. In California, where imports of foreign oil are a record 48 percent, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger recently pulled his support for an offshore project, citing concerns over the spill in the Gulf. Similar shifts have occurred elsewhere, including Florida and Virginia, where some lawmakers who once supported drilling now are distancing themselves from it.

"You turn on the television and see this enormous disaster, you say to yourself, 'Why would we want to take that kind of risk?' " Schwarzenegger said at a news conference.

In poor countries such as Ecuador, people don't have a choice.

"The impacts here have been enormous," said Esperanza Martinez, Ecuador coordinator for the international environmental group Oilwatch. "We calculate 1 million hectares"—2.5 million acres—"have been deforested."

Four decades of spills and leaks by oil companies there, including some from the United States, have fouled thousands of miles of jungle streams and wetland zones.

"What does this all mean to the people? It means high levels of illness in the petroleum zones, where they have 30 percent more cancer," Martinez said. "The worst indicators of poverty are right next to petroleum sites."

For its part, the Western States Petroleum Association, which represents U.S. oil companies, argues that tapping America's offshore oil is more responsible, but the Gulf spill will only make that more difficult, said Catherine Reheis-Boyd, the group's president.

"We have to re-earn the confidence, relearn the lessons and move on to explore and access these resources domestically, so we can reduce our dependence on foreign oil," Reheis-Boyd said.

Much of California's disdain for drilling stems from a 1969 well blowout near Santa Barbara that killed some 3,700 seabirds and captured nationwide attention.

By historic standards, it was a significant but not gigantic spill—more than 3 million gallons leaked, compared with 11 million from the Exxon Valdez in Alaska in 1989 and 4 million so far from the BP Deepwater Horizon explosion in the Gulf. It had a super-sized impact, however, jump-starting an era of environmental activism and helping to inspire the first Earth Day a year later.

"A lot of the oil ended up on the coast, where people are highly sensitized to their environment and activist by nature," said Tupper Hull, the vice president of strategic communications for the Western States Petroleum Association.

"Oil spills are terrible things to see," he said. "They have a visual and visceral and emotional impact on people that cannot be trivialized."

The Santa Barbara spill "set off a chain of events that created an orthodoxy on this issue," he said. "It was a game-changer, not unlike what's now taking place in the Gulf of Mexico."

Overdrive

Zoom zoom no more; this Mazda is a gas sipper

By LARRY PRINTZ
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

Mazda, no longer wanting to just "zoom zoom," seems to be making a slow but steady U-turn, valuing fuel economy above speed.

Consider the 2010 Mazda CX-7 crossover SUV.

Having appeared for the 2007 model year with a responsive 244 horsepower, 2.3-liter turbocharged engine, the CX-7 had the moxie to match its sporting good looks. Now, three years later, the company is offering the CX-7 with less "zoom zoom" (Mazda's tag line) in the form of a new 2.5-liter, four-cylinder engine.

While the mill is larger, it lacks a turbocharger. Rated at 161 horsepower and mated to a five-speed automatic transmission, the new drive line comes exclusively with front-wheel-drive on i SV and i Sport models.

NUTS & BOLTS

Engine: 2.5-liter DOHC four-cylinder
Wheelbase: 108.3 inches
Length: 184.3 inches
Weight: 3,496 pounds
Cargo space: 29.9-58.6 cubic feet
Towing capacity: 1,500 pounds
EPA rating (city/highway): 20/28 mpg
Fuel consumption: 25 mpg
Fuel type: Regular unleaded
Base price: $22,340
As tested: $25,990

The 2010 Mazda CX-7 crossover SUV has an agile feel that's rewarding to drive.

In contrast, pricier Touring and Grand Touring models get the turbo mill, a choice of front-wheel- or all-wheel-drive and a six-speed transmission. That's nice, but it will cost you. Turbo models are rated at 18 mpg city, 25 mpg highway with front-wheel-drive, a bit thirstier than the new base model's rating of 20 mpg city, 28 mpg highway. According to the EPA, that will cost you an extra $340 in fuel costs per year, or $6.54 a week.

Whether the extra cost is worth it comes down to your driving personality.

For asphalt Andrettis, the base motor isn't even worth contemplating. Similarly, if you plan on filling the CX-7 to its five-passenger capacity, the turbo engine might be worth the extra scratch. Most drivers will find the base mill more than adequate for suburban sprints and the daily commuter crawl. But being patient has its rewards; Mixed city and highway driving returned 26 mpg.

Even with the base engine, the CX-7 has an agile feel that's rewarding to drive. A crossover will never have the abilities of an RX-8, but it is responsive enough to build driver confidence. And the CX-7's size is perfect: small enough to maneuver in parking lagoons, large enough to handle big-box cargo.

Safety features include anti-lock disc brakes, electronic brake force distribution, brake assist, stability control, traction control and front side-impact air bags and side air curtain air bags.

Besides the expanded model line-up, Mazda engineers have refined the CX-7 by reducing wind and road noise and enhancing body stiffness. If you've driven an older CX-7, you'll notice the difference. The CX-7 no longer seems like the less-refined little brother of the larger CX-9. It's quieter and the ride doesn't feel as harsh, although it's still stiff.

Of course, performance revisions are just the start. Mazda has tweaked the interior, adding little things that make it a better place to pass the miles: Seats and the steering wheel have been redesigned, and the CX-7 now has a tilt/telescopic steering wheel. The materials seem higher-quality. Thoughtful touches include auxiliary audio jack, two power outlets and exterior temperature displays.

The front seats are comfortable and roomy. By contrast, rear seat room is a bit tight. Typical for crossovers, rear seat height is low. The second row folds to enhance cargo room, although the rear roof line intrudes somewhat on cargo space.

So although the Mazda may lack a little zoom zoom, it does offer agility, good cargo room and styling that's a bit outside the box, thanks to its swoopy shape. For most buyers, the trade-off will be worth it.

What we say: Zoom zoom? Not really
Pro: Good looks, good mileage
Con: More frugal than fast

Q&A: Seeing whether mothballed car passes smell test

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Question: I'm thinking about buying a 2001 Buick Park Avenue that has been parked for about two years without being started. The car was properly maintained throughout its life and ran fine when parked but was not prepared for storage. I know the battery is dead. Does prolonged "parking" affect its value or reliability? What steps would you recommend to get the car started and running again?

Answer: Start by replacing the battery, airing up the tires and checking all the fluids. The biggest question mark is going to be the gasoline in the tank. If a sniff test yields a rancid odor that curls your nose up, you're going to have to drain the fuel tank, replace the fuel filter and add fresh gas with a fuel system cleaner.

But if the fuel smells normal — which it likely will — see if it will start. Pull the fuel pump relay to disable the fuel system and crank the engine until the oil pressure warning light goes out. Re-enable the fuel pump and fire it up. Once running, let it thoroughly warm up, make sure the brake pedal feels firm and normal, and drive it at low speeds gently up to temperature.

If all is well, make an appointment to have a shop check the car over, change fluids if necessary and confirm the vehicle and tires are road-worthy.

Being parked for two years doesn't hurt the reliability or value; the lower mileage might actually help.

■ ■ ■

Q: On occasion, both turn signals on my 2001 Ford Focus fail to work. The lever moves normally, but there are no blinkers. After several tries, after I've turned or sometimes while I am turning, they will start working again. A new turn signal relay did not help. The only issue that seems remotely related is that my headlights get noticeably dimmer and brighter when I'm driving. Any ideas?

A: Have a shop disconnect the turn-signal wiring harness and check the turn-signal contacts for continuity as the steering wheel is turned back and forth and the turn signal/high beam switch is operated. I'm betting this switch or its harness is the culprit. This may be causing the headlight fluctuation as well. Because of the potential danger from the air bag, this needs to be a professional repair.

■ ■ ■

Q: I have a 2009 Ford Ranger with the 2.3-liter engine and automatic transmission. On the first cold start of the day, it revs up to 2,500 rpm, which seems a bit fast when lubrication is at its worst. Idle rpm drops down in a few seconds. The service department at the Ford dealer says 2,500 rpm is acceptable.

A: According to my Alldata database, Ford addressed this issue in technical service bulletin 10-1-2 this past February. The bulletin recommends reprogramming the powertrain control module to the latest calibration.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car*, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at:* Star Tribune*, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488 or via e-mail at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. It isn't always possible to send a personal reply.*

UNDER THE HOOD

Practice makes perfect with antilock braking

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: Last week, I was coming down a neighbor's steep driveway and was startled when my brake pedal began to vibrate rapidly. The car stopped OK at the bottom of the hill, and I never felt like it was out of control. All stops after this were normal once again, and the brake pedal feels normal. What could cause this? It gave me the most uneasy feeling.—Rose Morrison

ANSWER: Don't worry. This was a normal, although uncommon function of your car. Your description of the driveway tells us one or more wheels may have momentarily lost traction, perhaps due to some leaves or gravel on the driveway surface, and the antilock brake system, or ABS, stepped in to assist.

ABS systems monitor the speed of each wheel, and if a wheel decelerates too rapidly and begins to skid, a group of hydraulic valves quickly readjust brake pressure. Maximum effective braking is maintained, and the wheels continue to rotate, allowing you to steer and maintain vehicle control.

What you felt in the brake pedal was the system rapidly releasing and reapplying hydraulic force to the affected wheel or wheels. This is a startling sensation the first time one encounters it, and continued firm pedal force is needed to properly slow the vehicle.

I'd recommend all folks with an ABS-equipped vehicle practice an assisted stop, at least once, in a wet, smooth, unoccupied parking lot. Be sure all loose belongings in the car and trunk are secure, and look for some standing water.

At a speed of 15 mph or less, with plenty of room ahead, beside, and behind, try a very firm brake pedal application as you pass over the puddle. Attempt this several times if needed. Don't be afraid to press as hard as you can — you won't hurt the car or the tires. Once you feel the ABS intervene and are OK with the sensation, try a gentle turn as you engage the system. You'll quickly realize the ABS allows you to concentrate on steering, and you can trust it to stop you as quickly as possible with full-on pedal force.

Assuming you've found a good location for the above maneuvers, a stuck-throttle solution might be practiced at another time with a dry road surface. Begin by getting to know your automatic transmission shifter, ignition switch or start-stop button. Does your shifter allow you to quickly and simply slip the lever to neutral without pushing the button?

How do the different positions of the ignition switch feel? One click back on the ignition switch will turn off the engine while still allowing you to turn the steering wheel. Two or more clicks will get you into big trouble — spend a little time sorting all this out.

With lots of room in every direction, at a speed of 15 mph or less, practice turning off the engine and braking to a stop. One firm continuous pedal application will provide normal braking performance. Repeated braking applications will deplete power brake assist, leaving you with a very stiff but workable pedal. Try this only with lots of room ahead.

Try also slipping the transmission into neutral as you're moving (release the throttle to avoid excessive engine speed). You'll find this is a simple maneuver and you can easily maintain complete control as you brake to a stop.

Most newer cars will limit engine speed to a safe level in neutral and full-on driving conditions. An older engine may be damaged if excessively raced in neutral. Start-stop button? Try a few stops after continuing to depress the button for a successful engine shut-off. Bring along a copilot, for added confidence, and to share some very worthwhile fun.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him e-mail at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

Germany wins 2010 Eurovision Song Contest

OSLO, Norway—Germany's Lena Meyer-Landrut won the 2010 Eurovision Song Contest with the catchy pop song "Satellite," edging out Turkey and Romania as the continent put aside its financial woes for a night of musical exuberance.

It was Germany's second win in the songfest's 55-year history, and the victory means it will host next year's contest.

Meyer-Landrut had been the second favorite among leading bookmakers, but first in a Google predictor program. Her victory marks the second year in a row that the Google program has correctly projected the winner of Eurovision, after predicting Norwegian fiddler Alexander Rybak's win in Moscow last year.

Meyer-Landrut, who turned 19 during the competition in Norway, won 246 points in the voting Saturday by a panel of judges and telephone votes from fans in the 39 participating countries.

Onstage after winning, Meyer-Landrut demanded a kiss on the cheek from Rybak.

"I'm so happy and so thankful and so grateful, and I never thought we could do this," she said, covering her face with a German flag and, looking bewildered, asked: "Do I have to sing now?"

Alone on stage with backup singers in shadow and dressed in a black cocktail dress, Meyer-Landrut sang "Satellite" again to cheers and applause.

Germany beat the Turkish entry by 76 points. Romania came in third.

Oil-rich Norway spent 200 million kroner ($31 million) to host the elaborate songfest, which led off with a performance by Rybak.

This year several countries pulled out of the extravaganza citing financial strains, including the Czech Republic, Montenegro, Andorra and Hungary.

Observers also feared that the voting for the winner—a political consideration even in the best of times—would be affected by the continent's simmering financial tensions. The Greek government debt crisis and a subsequent European Union-led bailout has strained relations within the 27-nation bloc, especially between Greeks and Germans.

Not everyone welcomed Germany's supremacy. On Russian state television, an announcer said "clearly everyone knows where to turn when they need money."

The contest is known for over-the-top costumes, lighting and set designs. One notable semi-final outfit—tight silver sparkly shorts—was worn by the male singers in Lithuania's InCulto group, and contestants from Romania had plumes of fire in the background of their set.

Earlier this week, 34 contestants were whittled down to 20. Those 20 competed in the final along with last year's winner, Norway, and the contest's four perennials: Britain, Germany, France and Spain.

Politically motivated voting, as well as bloc voting, has been fairly common in Eurovision, and this year was no exception, with former Soviet bloc countries supporting each other. That trend has helped the region win five of the last 10 Eurovision contests.

AP

Lena Meyer-Landrut of Germany reacts as she wins the final of the Eurovision Song Contest at the Fornebu Arena in Baerum, just outside Oslo, Norway, Saturday, May 29, 2010.

Director quits 'Hobbit' film over production delay

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Hollywood director Guillermo del Toro said Monday that production delays have forced him to quit the planned film version of J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Hobbit," a two-part prequel to New Zealand filmmaker Peter Jackson's blockbuster trilogy "Lord of the Rings."

"In light of ongoing delays in the setting of a start date for filming The Hobbit, I am faced with the hardest decision of my life," del Toro told a "Lord of the Rings" fan website.

"After nearly two years of living, breathing and designing a world as rich as Tolkien's Middle Earth, I must, with great regret, take leave from helming these wonderful pictures," he said, noting the film still hadn't been given the green light by MGM, the struggling Hollywood studio.

del Toro

Matt Dravitzki, a spokesman for "Hobbit" producer and "Lord Of The Rings" director Jackson, said del Toro would not be speaking to reporters Monday.

The announcement by del Toro reflected Jackson and del Toro's "full sentiments at this time," he said.

Del Toro would continue to co-write the screenplays with Jackson and his wife, Fran Walsh, and Philippa Boyens.

Jackson reached a deal in late 2007 to make two films of "The Hobbit." He is serving as joint executive producer with Walsh.

Last week, del Toro, who directed "Pan's Labyrinth," "Blade" and the two "Hellboy" movies, told journalists the "Hobbit" films, which have been plagued by delays, still hadn't been given the go ahead.

"There cannot be any start dates until the MGM situation gets resolved," del Toro said. "They do hold a considerable portion of the rights."

Reports emerged late last year that MGM was teetering on bankruptcy and del Toro said those issues had caught the "Hobbit" films in a "tangled negotiation."

"We have designed all the creatures. We've designed the sets and the wardrobe. We have done animatics and planned battles sequences ... We are very, very prepared for when it is finally triggered," he said.

Jackson told http://www.TheOneRing.net: "We feel very sad to see Guillermo leave The Hobbit, but he has kept us fully in the loop and we understand how the protracted development time on these two films, due to reasons beyond anyone's control, has compromised his commitment to other long term projects.

"The bottom line is that Guillermo just didn't feel he could commit six years to living in New Zealand, exclusively making these films, when his original commitment was for three years. Guillermo is one of the most remarkable creative spirits I've ever encountered and it has been a complete joy working with him."

He would discuss options for a new director with MGM this week, Jackson told the website.

"We do not anticipate any delay or disruption to ongoing pre-production work," he said.

Last month, Jackson dismissed rumors that the "Hobbit" movies have been delayed by production problems, insisting the project was still in its early stages.

He told Moviefone.com, "Well, it's not really been delayed, because we've never announced the date. I mean it's sort of interesting because the studio has never greenlit The Hobbit, so therefore The Hobbit has never been officially announced as a 'go' project, nor have we ever announced a date."

First family enjoys sleepover in own Chicago home

CHICAGO (AP)—Good friends, good food and the comforts of his own home.

President Barack Obama enjoyed all three when he brought his family home to Chicago for a long Memorial Day holiday weekend. It was the first family's first sleepover at their red-brick home in more than a year.

Obama's only public appearance Sunday was for a roundtrip to a private gym for a workout. Top advisers also updated him on efforts to manage the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

The president was due back at the White House on Monday after paying respects to the nation's war dead during Memorial Day observances at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, Ill., south of Chicago.

Some veterans groups have criticized Obama, who has sent tens of thousands of troops into a ramped-up war in Afghanistan, for skipping the traditional wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. Obama helped lay a wreath at Arlington last year but this year has handed the honor to Vice President Joe Biden.

AP

President Barack Obama, center, takes a walk with his family in his neighborhood on Saturday, May 29, 2010, in Chicago. With Obama from left are the first family's dog Bo, Obama's daughter Malia Obama, Obama, his mother-in-law Mirian Robinson, and his younger daughter Sasha Obama.

Obama spoke at the Lincoln cemetery on Memorial Day in 2005.

Before taking office in January 2009, Obama expressed a desire to visit his $1.6 million home in the city's Hyde Park neighborhood about every six weeks.

"Our friends are here. Our family is here. We are going to try to come back here as often as possible ... at least once every six weeks or couple of months," he told the Chicago Tribune back then.

But the demands of the presidency and his daughters' busy schedules of weekend soccer and basketball games, birthday parties and sleepovers have thwarted his intentions.

First lady Michelle Obama, daughters Malia and Sasha, Obama's mother-in-law Marian Robinson and family dog Bo arrived in Chicago on Thursday night.

'Idol' finalists ready to record albums, tour

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The show is over, the confetti all swept away, but "American Idol" winner Lee DeWyze and runner-up Crystal Bowersox are just getting started.

The 24-year-old singers talked with reporters Friday about what lies ahead as they launch their professional music careers.

Bowersox says she forsees a future that includes diverse music, drama and diabetes advocacy, adding that she'd love to work with fellow diabetic Bret Michaels. The dreadlocked single mom from Toledo, Ohio, says she'll be meeting with record executives next week to discuss her musical future.

Discussions for DeWyze's debut album have already begun, he says.

"It's been a crazy experience, the whole album-making thing, and talking and going to the meetings about it and everything," says the shy former paint-store clerk from Mount Prospect, Ill., adding that he'll have a lot of say in the sound and will also be writing new tracks for the record.

Expect "a folk/rock/alternative vibe," he says. "I want it to be very earthy ... I'm looking to make an album that can really speak to everybody, good stories and good music to back it up, because that's the kind of stuff I like to listen to."

Both "Idol" stars will be recording their albums while traveling the country on the "American Idols Live! Tour," which begins July 1 in Detroit.

Bowersox scored an "Idol" first when she played her own original song, "Holy Toledo," on a recent episode, and she's excited to play it again when she performs in her hometown during the "Idol" tour. She also hopes to write new music for her album and collaborate with some of her heroes, including Melissa Etheridge, Ray LaMontagne and Leslie Feist. "The craziest thing is it's all possible now to work with these people," she says. "I can say it and it can be true." Bowersox is also interested in acting: "Drama was my first love, actually, before music."

'Shrek' better than 'Sex' with $43M at box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Movie audiences are showing more appetite for Shrek than for sex over Memorial Day weekend.

DreamWorks Animation's sequel "Shrek Forever After" remained the No. 1 movie for a second weekend with $43.3 million from Friday to Sunday. The film raised its domestic total to $133.1 million.

That easily topped the Warner Bros. sequel "Sex and the City 2," which was No. 2 with a $32.1 million debut that came in far below the $56.8 million opening weekend of its predecessor two years ago. Along with a $14.2 million haul in its first day Thursday, "Sex and the City 2" has brought in $46.3 million.

Debuting at No. 3 with $30.2 million was Disney's action tale "Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time."

Even with bad reviews and a running time of nearly two and a half hours for "Sex and the City 2," many in Hollywood had expected the sequel to open at No. 1.

But the fourth "Shrek" installment, itself opening far below the previous sequels, held up strongly in its second weekend. Family crowds continued to pack theaters for what is billed as the final big-screen tale featuring voice stars Mike Myers, Cameron Diaz, Eddie Murphy and Antonio Banderas.

Women made up 90 percent of the audience for "Sex and the City 2," which reunites the stars of the HBO series—Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall, Kristin Davis and Cynthia Nixon—for an adventure in Abu Dhabi.

Dan Fellman, head of distribution for Warner Bros., estimated that "Sex and the City 2" will have taken in about $53 million in its first five days once Memorial Day receipts are counted.

While that would be less than the three-day opening weekend for the first movie, the sequel still could match the $152.6 million domestic total of "Sex and the City" if it holds up well in subsequent weekends, Fellman said.

"The numbers are the numbers, but it's a little unfair to go in the direction of trouble in River City until we have an opportunity to see how we leg it out," Fellman said. "We might end up getting there. It's just a different pattern than the first one."

DreamWorks is hoping for a lengthy shelf life on "Shrek Forever After," a fourth installment in the franchise that had critics wondering if audiences finally were growing tired of the big green ogre.

"We always knew with the fourth entry in particular that we were in some kind of unprecedented territory," said Anne Globe, head of marketing at DreamWorks. "There was really no game plan to follow."

The box office for "Shrek Forever After" slipped 39 percent from its opening weekend, compared with a 56 percent drop in the second weekend for the third "Shrek" flick.

The modest results for "Prince of Persia" leave the movie's franchise potential in doubt. Producer Jerry Bruckheimer, whose movies include the "Pirates of the Caribbean" and "National Treasure" series, was aiming for similar franchise treatment on "Prince of Persia."

Set in ancient times, the movie stars Jake Gyllenhaal as a king's adopted son accused of treachery and murder, who obtains a magic dagger that can turn back time.

AP

In this May 20, 2010 file photo, "Shrek" is joined by actor Mike Myers as the character receives a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles.

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The Prince of Persia

Friday		4:20	7:05	9:40
Saturday & Sunday	1:05	4:20	7:05	9:40
Monday	1:05	4:20	7:05	
Tues thru Thurs		4:20	7:05	

Jake Gyllenhaal, Gemma Arterton
Adventure • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
The setting is sixth century Persia. A nefarious nobleman covets the Sands of Time, a legendary gift from the gods that allows its possessor to turn back time. Whoever owns the Sands of Time has the power to rule the world, and this villainous lord would use that power to enslave all of humanity. The only person capable of defeating this tyrant and saving the world is Dastan a youthful prince.

Sex And The City 2

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday & Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Monday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Tues thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall
Comedy • Rated PG

Synopsis
The fun, the fashion, the friendship: "Sex and the City 2" brings is all back and more as Carrie, Samantha, Charlotte and Miranda take another bite out of the The Big Apple—and beyond—carrying on with their busy lives and loves in a sequel that truly sparkles.

★ ★ ★

Shrek: The Final Chapter

Friday		4:10	7:30	9:30
Saturday & Sunday	1:15	4:10	7:30	9:30
Monday	1:15	4:10	7:30	
Tues thru Thurs		4:10	7:30	

Mike Myers, Cameron Diaz
Comedy, Fantasy • Rated PG

Synopsis
The wisecracking green-tinged ogre returns in Shrek Forever After, the newest installment in the successful DreamWorks Animation series. This will be the first time that the franchise will be presented in the IMAX format in addition to a normal big-screen rollout.

MacGruber

Friday		4:30	7:25	9:35
Saturday & Sunday	1:10	4:30	7:25	9:35
Monday	1:10	4:30	7:25	
Tues thru Thurs		4:30	7:25	

Will Forte, Ryan Phillippe
Comedy • Rated R

Robin Hood

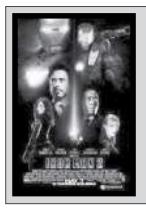
Friday		4:25	7:10	9:55
Saturday & Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:10	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:10	
Tues thru Thurs		4:25	7:10	

Russel Crowe, Cate Blanchett
Adventure • Rated PG 13

Letters to Juliet

Friday		4:05	7:20	9:45
Saturday & Sunday	1:30	4:05	7:20	9:45
Monday	1:30	4:05	7:20	
Tues thru Thurs		4:05	7:20	

Amanda Seyfried, Chris Egan
Comedy, Romance • Rated PG



Iron Man 2

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:50
Saturday & Sunday	1:20	4:15	7:15	9:50
Monday	1:20	4:15	7:15	
Tues thru Thurs		4:15	7:15	

Robert Downey, Jr., Gwyneth Paltrow
Action • Rated PG 13

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Stone: Film an intro to Chavez and his movement

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—American filmmaker Oliver Stone said Friday he deeply admires Hugo Chavez but suggested the Venezuelan president might consider talking a bit less on television.

Promoting his new documentary "South of the Border" in Caracas, Stone heaped praise on Chavez, saying he is leading a movement for "social transformation" in Latin American. The film features informal interviews by Stone with Chavez and six allied leftist presidents, from Bolivia's Evo Morales to Cuba's Raul Castro.

"I admire Hugo. I like him very much as a person. I can say one thing. ... He shouldn't be on television all the time," Stone said at a news conference. "As a director I say you don't want to be overpowering. And I think he is sometimes that way."

Chavez makes near-daily speeches that run for hours, often reminiscing, lecturing about history, announcing news and breaking into song. His Sunday program can last six hours or more.

"He's a soldier and he speaks from his heart," Stone said. "His vision is huge. ... And he will go down in history."

The Oscar-winning director hopes his documentary will help people better understand a leader who Stone said is wrongly ridiculed "as a strongman, as a buffoon, as a clown."

"This is a positive portrayal of a man who Americans do not have access to," Stone said. "He is demonized in the American and European press as a monster."

Chavez, who joined Stone for the premiere of the film at last year's Venice Film Festival, hosted a screening Friday night at a Caracas theater and called the director a good friend.

"They demonize us is North America, in Europe, in a good part of the world. And Oliver dove is, so to speak, seeking the truth," Chavez said. He called the movie "a splinter in the eagle's talon"—a reference to the United States.

Stone said President Barack Obama's administration, in spite of initially inspiring hope, hasn't done anything to improve U.S. relations with Chavez or his Latin American allies.

Clinton-Blair years focus of HBO's 'Relationship'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dennis Quaid and Hope Davis, starring as Bill and Hillary Clinton in a new HBO film, have a civilized difference of opinion about a Monica Lewinsky-driven quarrel that was edited out.

Quaid thinks the clash should have remained in "The Special Relationship," which focuses on Bill Clinton and then-British Prime Minister Tony Blair. Davis is relieved it was cut from the movie that debuts this weekend (including 9 p.m. EDT Saturday and 6:15 p.m. EDT Sunday).

"We shot a really good scene but I'm happy it was left out," said Davis ("American Splendor," "In Treatment"), who uses a wig, pantsuits and accent to convincingly evoke Hillary Clinton.

In a preview copy of the film, Bill Clinton is shown confessing to his wife that he lied about his dalliance with White House intern Lewinsky. Davis' Hillary listens stoically, and the scene ends without the ensuing row that was filmed.

AP

In this May 10, 2010 file photo, actors Dennis Quaid, left, and Michael Sheen, cast members in the HBO film "The Special Relationship," pose together for a portrait in Beverly Hills, Calif.

"It put them in such a vulnerable place. I don't want to see them, I don't want to see her, in that position," Davis said. "We know all we need to know. We know how it wrecked his presidency and how hard it was for them to get through."

Ultimately, she said, she thinks the filmmakers and HBO wanted to be sure the film stood up to scrutiny and avoided allegations of inaccuracy or treating the Clintons disrespectfully.

HBO said the shots that were trimmed wasn't germane to the movie that is primarily about Bill Clinton and Blair.

Quaid, who once spent a weekend at the Clinton White House and golfed with the president, believes the confrontation was fair game and of dramatic value.

Pop star Ke$ha sued by former managers in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—Ke$ha's former managers say the pop star squeezed them out of her career under pressure from hit songwriter Dr. Luke, but her lawyer said Friday she simply exercised her rights to fire the managers when they didn't perform.

Ke$ha, who had the No. 1 song in the country with "TiK ToK" earlier this year, signed up with ex-managers DAS Communications Inc. when she was an up-and-comer in 2006. Their agreement called for her to pay the New York-based firm 20 percent of her music income, but it gave her the option of ending the relationship if DAS didn't get her a major-label record deal in a year, according to a copy of the contract attached to a lawsuit DAS filed Wednesday.

A year later, there was no deal. DAS says Ke$ha waived the deadline, and the firm went on to line up a deal for her with Warner Bros. Records in 2008—until Dr. Luke interfered with that arrangement and "induced, intimidated and convinced Ke$ha" to cut ties to DAS in September 2008.

She ultimately signed with RCA/Jive Label Group, which released her first album, "Animal," in January. Dr. Luke co-produced it.

The lawsuit, filed in state court in Manhattan, seeks more than $14 million in damages from her and $12 million from Dr. Luke, who won songwriter of the year at the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers' Pop Music Awards last month. No representative or phone number for him could be found.

Ke$ha's lawyer, Charles Ortner, said she was entitled to end her relationship with the firm, headed by David Sonenberg. He has worked with Paula Abdul, Meat Loaf and others.

"This lawsuit seeks to require her to pay him commissions on her RCA/Jive record deal that he had nothing to do with, long after she terminated him in writing," Ortner said.

Recorded messages Friday evening at the offices of Warner Bros. Records and RCA/Jive's parent company, Sony Music Entertainment, said they were closed for the Memorial Day weekend.

Dr. Luke, born Lukasz Gottwald, wrote five of the top hits of 2009, including Katy Perry's "Hot N Cold," Miley Cyrus' "Party in the USA" and Flo Rida's "Right Round."

AP

In this May 15, 2010 photo, Ke$ha is seen backstage after her performance at the 102.7 KIIS FM?s Wango Tango in Los Angeles.

In this Feb. 16, 2010 file photo, Celine Dion arrives for the premiere of the film "Celine: Through the Eyes of the World" in Miami Beach, Fla. AP

Dion pregnant again at last—with twins

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Celine Dion's struggle to have one more baby has more than paid off. She's pregnant with two.

Publicist Kim Jakwerth told The Associated Press in an e-mail Sunday that the 42-year-old Canadian songstress is 14 weeks pregnant with twins, and she plans to find out the sex of the babies next month.

Dion and her husband and manager Rene Angelil have one son, 9-year-old Rene Charles.

She had undergone several rounds of in-vitro fertilization in an attempt to get pregnant again.

The pregnancy was first reported by People Magazine.

Dion is working on new albums in English and French, and returns next year to Las Vegas for a three-year residency at the Colosseum at Caesars Palace.

Bids for dinner at old NYC eatery start at $5,000

NEW YORK (AP)—With just 10 tables, it's hard to get a reservation at the popular, century-old Rao's restaurant in East Harlem.

But if you have at least $5,000, you can make an eBay bid on dinner for four at the Italian eatery. The winners must dine on July 27.

Proceeds will go to the nonprofit National Italian American Foundation for educational programs, such as grants to study Italian or to pursue research in Italian studies.

Rao's provides old-fashioned Neapolitan-style comfort food. Dinner normally runs about $80, more with a fine wine.

The Rao's phenomenon exploded in 1977, when a New York Times food critic gave it a three-star review.

It no longer was a local secret.

Comic hero Tintin nets $1.3 million in auction

PARIS (AP)—A life-size bronze statue of comic book reporter Tintin and more than 200 other items linked to the diminutive globetrotter have fetched more than euro1 million ($1.3 million) at a Paris auction.

The most expensive lot was two inked and water-painted original panels from the 1938 "King Ottokar's Sceptre" album, which went for euro243,750 ($299,620).

The bronze statue, showing Tintin with his hands in his pockets and dog Snowy at his side, went for euro125,000 ($153,650) in the Saturday auction at the Drouot-Montaigne auction house.

Belgian artist Herge's adventures of Tintin have been translated into nearly 80 languages and sold more than 200 million books since 1929. Racial and cultural stereotypes in books such as "Tintin in the Congo" have prompted criticism, but demand for Tintin artifacts remains strong.

A porter displays a watercolor, named "Tintin and the sea shells" drawn by Belgian creator Herge during the auction of rare memorabilia of Tintin, at the Drouot auction's house, in Paris, Saturday May 29, 2010. AP

'Avenue Q' keeps character based on Gary Coleman

NEW YORK (AP)—An award-winning play that features a character based on Gary Coleman is planning to keep that character, even after the actor's death.

The creative team behind "Avenue Q" has decided to make only small tweaks to the role played by Danielle Thomas. Coleman died Friday in Utah after suffering a brain hemorrhage.

"Avenue Q" is show about twentysomething New Yorkers, featuring both humans and puppets. It won three 2004 Tony Awards, including best musical.

The Coleman character is a child star who now works as a building superintendent.

It is now running off-Broadway.

Early exit from wedding dinner draws fire from mother-in-law

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law is upset with my wife and me for sneaking out of a wedding reception early (before the dinner was served). There was a long delay between the reception and the dinner, and a DJ was playing loud, deafening rock 'n' roll music.

We were seated near a speaker and it was virtually impossible to carry on a conversation. My wife claimed a major headache to the guests seated at our table, and we discreetly left the reception.

My mother-in-law says if you accept the dinner invitation it is bad manners not to eat the dinner because it cost the hosts money. I say, if the reception has intolerable environmental factors inflicted on the guests, leaving early is acceptable. Were we rude to leave as we did?

LOST MY APPETITE IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR LOST MY APPETITE: Let me put it this way—your mother-in-law has a point. Because the music was so loud that you were uncomfortable, you should have asked your hosts to instruct the DJ to lower the volume somewhat. It would have been preferable to walking out.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm the supervisor of a small office. One of my biggest challenges is scheduling time off for the female employees. In my day, you didn't take a day off unless you were very sick or your child was sick. Now they seem to want time off for everything from school events, sporting events, getting their nails done, their faces waxed or tanning appointments. I am amazed at the decline in work ethic.

As I read about the unemployment in our country, I would think people would be grateful to have a well-paying job with benefits—but the recession hasn't slowed any of our female employees down one bit. What has happened to the old-fashioned work ethic that founded this country? (Maybe it went south along with the jobs?) And by the way, Abby, I am a female.

TAKES MY JOB SERIOUSLY

DEAR TAKES: Most companies give employees time off for personal business and vacations, as well as time off for their own illnesses or the illness of family members. If they choose to use the time the way you have described, it is their right to do so. However, if they are taking more than the company offers, that could be a problem. While I understand your point, please try to be less judgmental.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I work and lead busy lives. The dinner table is the only place we can sit together with our son and have a relaxing conversation. My wife, however, goes off and eats by herself saying she can't wait—even though dinner is almost ready. I have tried telling her I prefer family time, but she brushes me off or becomes angry. Any suggestions?

HUNGRY FOR CONVERSATION

DEAR HUNGRY: Yes. If you want family dinners with your wife, you will have to find out—and resolve—what is eating her. Clear the air and you may find her less hungry for solitude.

A gentle reminder: Families sitting down and sharing meals together is a practice that is happening less and less, and it's a shame. Teachers tell me that students who eat with their parents usually earn better grades than those who eat in front of a television set or on the run.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

TWITCHING TUFTED TAIL, A TOASTY, TAWNY TUMMY: A TIRED TIGER.
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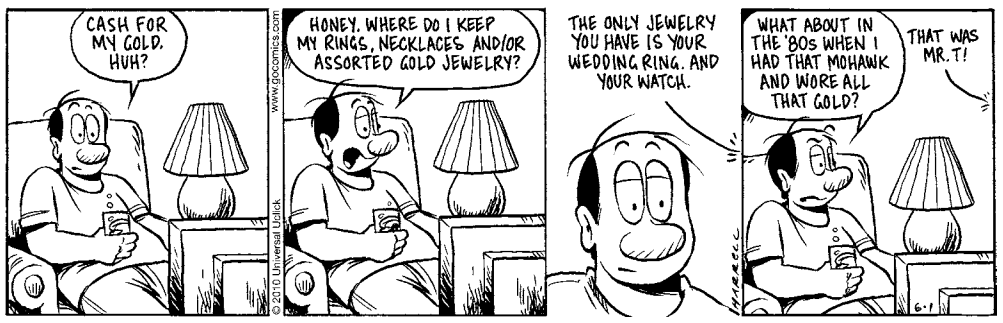
By Bryan Basset


CASH FOR MY GOLD. HUH?
HONEY. WHERE DO I KEEP MY RINGS, NECKLACES AND/OR ASSORTED GOLD JEWELRY?
THE ONLY JEWELRY YOU HAVE IS YOUR WEDDING RING. AND YOUR WATCH.
WHAT ABOUT IN THE '80s WHEN I HAD THAT MOHAWK AND WORE ALL THAT GOLD?
THAT WAS MR. T!
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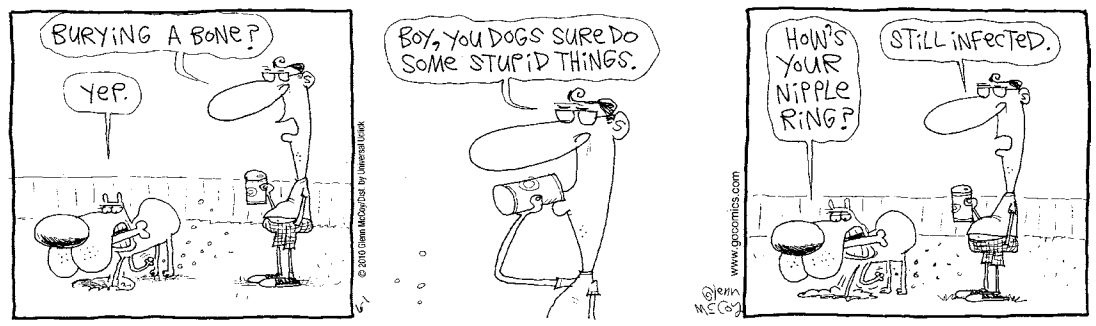
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Burn
5 Toward the stern
8 Untalkative sort
12 Corporate illustration
13 Society-page word
14 Traditional stories
15 Leave out
16 French officer
18 Polite
20 Dada artist Max
21 Conger, for one
22 Tibetan beast
23 Mettle
26 First book of the Bible
30 Melody
31 Dine
32 Sort
33 Sexes
36 Defile
38 Ram's mate
39 Hamburger holder
40 Bracelet site
43 Authentic
47 Not at all stingy
49 Break suddenly
50 Source
51 Exist
52 Advantage
53 Initial chip
54 Same old same old
55 Amount of medicine

DOWN
1 Stop up
2 Baserunner's goal
3 Not "fer"
4 Putrid
5 Christmas tree topper, maybe
6 Sense
7 X on a sundial
8 "2001: A Space Odyssey" author
9 Forsaken
10 Weaponry
11 Encounter
17 College VIP
19 "A mouse!"
22 Still
23 Droop
24 Chart format
25 Coffee shop vessel
26 Petrol
27 Part of RSVP
28 Under the weather
29 Firmament
31 Prior to
34 Take out of context?
35 Basin accessory
36 Baltimore newspaper
37 Still in the packaging
39 Under siege
40 Taj Mahal city
41 Night light?
42 Entanglement
43 Mentor
44 — -European
45 Run-down horses
46 Duel tool
48 Rowing need

Solution time: 21 mins.

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B	R	A	■	S	E	R	A	C	■	E	R	E
C	A	M	S	■	D	I	S	L	O	D	G	E
■	■	■	E	T	A	■	P	I	U	S	■	■
A	R	C	A	N	E	■	N	E	W	B	I	E
C	O	O	L	I	D	G	E	■	A	R	A	B
N	I	C	K	■	E	N	S	■	L	I	M	B
E	L	K	S	■	N	U	S	■	D	E	B	S

Yesterday's answer 6-1

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			17				
18				19			■	20				
■	■	■	21			■	22			■	■	■
23	24	25			■	26				27	28	29
30			■	■	31			■	■	32		
33			34	35			■	36	37			
■	■	■	38			■	39			■	■	■
40	41	42			■	43				44	45	46
47					48			■	49			
50				■	51				52			
53				■	54			■	55			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alanis Morissette, 36; Rene Auberjonois, 70; Morgan Freeman, 73; Andy Griffith, 84

Happy Birthday: Take the initiative and do everything in your power to get ahead financially this year. You will discover that saving will bring you greater stability and the ability to do some of the things you have only dreamed about in the past. Don't be fooled by an offer that requires a donation on your part. This year, you have to be sympathetic to your own needs. Your numbers are 4, 12, 15, 26, 29, 37, 41

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Do whatever it takes to ease your stress. Ask for help or share your feelings with someone who can relate to your situation. You don't have to be the bearer of everyone else's burdens. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You will find it difficult to harness your emotions. If you start to put the blame on everyone around you, it will backfire, leaving you to do all the fixing up. Offer incentives and be diplomatic. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Pay special attention to detail and to the people involved in whatever you are pursuing. Getting information from an agency, institution or large corporation will be easy if you are diplomatic. Don't fall for a gimmick. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Take a lighthearted approach to whatever you are faced with and you will get things done. The less stressed you are, the easier it will be to take whatever action is necessary. Good fortune is heading your way. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Emotional concerns can be dealt with bringing a greater understanding between you and someone with whom you are partnered. Get involved with a group or organization that will introduce you to people with something to offer you. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Expand your knowledge regarding a lifestyle change you've been considering. Don't overspend on your home or on someone who is demanding too much from you financially or emotionally. Be firm and say no. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't be afraid of controversy. You have to stick up for your beliefs and follow your own path, regardless of what others want you to do. Get together with someone who shares your views and is just as innovative and imaginative as you. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Getting involved in something that really isn't your business will backfire, leaving you in an awkward and vulnerable position. Put your time and effort into fixing up your home or developing a creative idea. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Make sure you are utilizing your talents to the fullest. If you feel you aren't being treated properly, it may be time to make a move that allows you to grow and flourish. There is money to be made if you are creative and concentrate on what you can do, instead of what you cannot. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Let go of whatever is holding you back emotionally. Take care of loose ends that keep you tied to something or someone that doesn't belong in your life anymore. Use your past experience to make the right decision now. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't shirk responsibilities. If someone expects something from you, be sure to deliver. Procrastination or not honoring a promise will lead to criticism. Ask questions so you know where you stand. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Make your choice known and stick to your decision. Your strength of character will help others realize you mean business. Your excellent memory, experience and any documentation you have will be enough. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You know how to use your talents wisely and are determined to get ahead. You are respectful of others but will always follow your own path. You put your heart, soul and beliefs into your home and family.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				1		2		
	6	8	9					
	4					3		7
	5			4	9			
8			1		7			3
			8	2			5	
5		7					2	
					3	4	1	
		2		8				

Difficulty Level ★★ 6/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

6	7	3	8	4	9	1	2	5
1	5	4	6	2	7	8	3	9
9	2	8	3	5	1	7	4	6
4	9	6	7	3	2	5	1	8
3	1	5	4	9	8	2	6	7
2	8	7	1	6	5	3	9	4
5	6	1	2	7	4	9	8	3
7	3	2	9	8	6	4	5	1
8	4	9	5	1	3	6	7	2

Difficulty Level ★ 5/31

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

'AVATAR' **Solution: 8 letters**

N	O	O	M	E	R	G	E	R	E	N	R	O	H	G
M	M	D	S	O	D	E	R	E	E	N	I	G	N	E
Y	L	E	M	I	T	R	S	G	N	I	D	I	R	N
S	B	I	R	U	M	H	E	E	V	I	D	E	O	E
P	L	T	F	U	I	U	E	A	A	O	U	R	D	T
A	U	I	U	I	T	N	L	R	M	R	E	W	R	I
C	R	E	S	D	R	P	A	C	O	M	C	O	I	C
E	A	S	E	G	N	U	A	T	A	N	N	H	G	A
T	Y	T	A	A	N	I	A	C	B	M	O	S	U	L
Y	N	O	T	G	N	I	H	T	R	O	W	H	E	L
B	O	A	(P)	S	C	R	E	E	N	I	N	G	Z	Y
A	L	I	(L)	E	V	O	N	B	S	E	Q	U	E	L
T	O	V	(O)	P	E	A	K	S	F	A	C	I	A	L
E	C	A	(T)	I	H	O	R	S	E	B	A	C	K	U
P	A	N	D	O	R	A	N	A	D	L	A	S	N	S

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Yesterday's Answer: Chevy Chase

Treasury 7 Send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 postage and handling each ($14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Uclick, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480 Order online at upuzzles.com.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: Friday, 05/28/10 — Closing Date: Friday, 06/11/10

JVA NO.	Position Title	Position(s)	*Salary	Contract	Location
10-024	Laboratory Technician	One (1)	$15,139.00	Two-years	Water Laboratory, Saipan
10-025	Accounting Technician	Three (3)	$15,139.00	Two-years	Chief Financial Officer Division, Saipan
10-026	Meter Reader	Three (3)	$12,236.00	Two-years	Chief Financial Officer Division, Saipan
10-027	Trades Assistant	One (1)	$11,036.00	Two-years	Power Division, Saipan

*For more information about the position(s) being advertised; requirements, equivalency policy, and salary; please contact or stop by the Human Resource office on the third floor of the Joeten Dandan Building.

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Opening Date: Friday 5/14/10
Closing Date: Until Filled

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• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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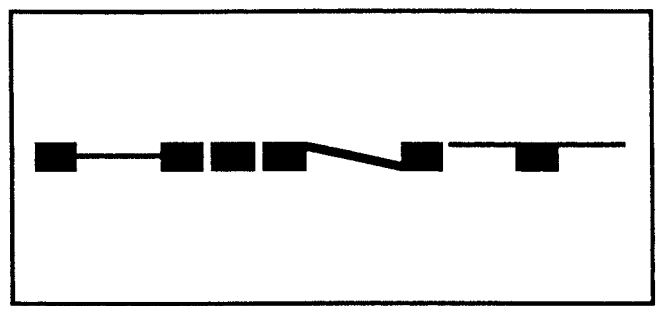

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Find today's solution in this section

Scherzer helps Tigers beat Athletics 10-2

DETROIT (AP) — Max Scherzer struck out 14 in 5 2-3 shutout innings hours after he was recalled from the minors, helping the Detroit Tigers beat the Oakland Athletics 10-2 on Sunday.

Scherzer (2-4) allowed two hits, walked four and hit a batter in his first game with Detroit since he was sent to Triple-A Toledo following an awful start. The right-hander fell just two strikeouts short of Mickey Lolich's team record despite being taken out in the sixth inning.

Scherzer was acquired from Arizona over the winter and went 1-4 with a 7.29 ERA in his first eight starts with the Tigers. He was only called back up because Armando Galarraga, Sunday's scheduled starter, pitched in relief on Friday and wasn't available.

Miguel Cabrera had four hits, including his 14th homer, and four RBIs for the Tigers, who finished with 15 hits. Joel Zumaya pitched two scoreless innings for his first save.

Daric Barton hit a two-run homer for Oakland. Dallas Braden (4-5) allowed five runs and 11 hits in six innings.

Angels 9, Mariners 7

At Anaheim, Howie Kendrick hit his second home run of the game with two outs and two on in the ninth inning, giving the Angels the win a day after Kendry Morales broke his leg celebrating a winning grand slam for Los Angeles.

Manager Mike Scioscia met with his team before the game to change the club's policy on home plate celebrations, and it was put to the test in short order. Kendrick had a clear path and touched home without a jump as his jubilant teammates ran on the field and kept a safe distance from the foul line before mobbing him.

Hideki Matsui hit a two-run homer in the first for Los Angeles. Fernando Rodney (4-0) pitched a hitless ninth for the victory.

Eliezer Alfonzo had three hits, including his first homer of the season, and drove in four for Seattle. Closer David Aardsma (0-3) got the loss.

Twins 6, Rangers 3

At Minneapolis, Denard Span had two hits, an RBI and made a lunging catch while colliding with Orlando Hudson to end the game as the Twins completed a rare three-game sweep over the Rangers.

The Twins gathered around Hudson in center field and watched quietly while trainers attended to him. After several minutes, he got up and walked off under his own power.

Scott Baker (5-4) allowed three runs on eight hits in six innings for the Twins, who recorded just their second sweep of the season. Jason Kubel added two hits and two RBIs.

Rangers starter Derek Holland (2-1) left with no outs in the second inning because of soreness in his left shoulder.

Blue Jays 6, Orioles 1

At Toronto, Jose Bautista hit his major league-leading 16th homer, Ricky Romero threw a six-hitter and Toronto finished off the three-game sweep.

Alex Gonzalez and Lyle Overbay also had solo drives for the Blue Jays, who have a club-record 53 homers in May and a majors-best 88 overall. Toronto, which also swept a series at Baltimore from A pril 9-11, recorded consecutive three-game sweeps of the Orioles for the first time since August 2001.

Romero (5-2) struck out seven and walked two in his second complete game of the season. The left-hander retired 15 of 18 after Nick Markakis' RBI single in the first inning.

Jeremy Guthrie (3-5) allowed four runs and seven hits in six innings to lose for the first time since May 3 against the New York Yankees. He had won his last three decisions.

Red Sox 8, Royals 1

At Boston, David Ortiz hit his 11th homer of the season and Jon Lester pitched seven strong innings, helping the Red Sox salvage a split of the four-game series.

Mike Cameron doubled twice, drove in two runs and scored three times for Boston. Jason Varitek added a solo homer.

The Red Sox went 18-11 in May after going 11-12 in April. Ortiz, who hit .143 with one homer and four RBIs in the first month of the season, batted .363 in May with 10 homers and 27 RBIs.

Lester (6-2) allowed one run and four hits to improve to 6-0 with a 1.43 ERA in his last seven starts.

Kansas City reliever Brad Thompson (0-4) was tagged for six runs and seven hits in 1 2-3 innings.

Yankees 7, Indians 3

At New York, Mark Teixeira hit a three-run homer in New York's five-run seventh, leading the Yankees to the victory.

Hours after the Indians learned they would be without star center fielder Grady Sizemore for at least six to eight weeks and possibly longer, they were reminded that their problems are more extensive.

Alex Rodriguez was 0 for 3 a day after hitting Cleveland pitcher David Huff in the head with a line drive. Huff showed no symptoms of a concussion before the game, smiling and joking around in the dugout.

Derek Jeter hit a two-run single off Justin Masterson with two out in the seventh to cut Cleveland's lead to 3-2. Tony Sipp (0-1) came on and gave up a double to Curtis Granderson before Teixeira's eighth homer.

AP

Detroit Tigers starter Max Scherzer pitches against the Oakland Athletics in the second inning of a baseball game Sunday, May 30, 2010, in Detroit.

White Sox 8, Rays 5

At St. Petersburg, Jayson Nix hit his first career grand slam, helping Chicago split a four-game series with the AL East leaders.

Nix connected against James Shields (5-3) in the sixth for his first homer of the season, giving the White Sox a 7-3 lead. He replaced Mark Teahen, who left in the fourth with a right middle finger injury, at third base.

Ben Zobrist homered and had two RBIs for the Rays, who went 2-5 on a seven-game homestand.

Chicago right-hander Jake Peavy (4-4) allowed five runs and 10 hits over 5 1-3 innings.

Cardinals 9, Cubs 1

At Chicago, Albert Pujols hit three long home runs and Adam Wainwright pitched seven impressive innings, leading the St. Louis Cardinals to a win over the Chicago Cubs.

Pujols connected in the first, fifth and ninth innings for his fourth career three-homer game. He has four homers in four games after hitting one in 28.

The Cardinals, who begin a three-game series against the NL Central-leading Reds on Monday, won their first series at Wrigley Field since taking two of three from the Cubs April 20-22, 2007.

Wainwright (7-3) allowed one run and seven hits, struck out eight and walked two.

Matt Holliday had four hits for St. Louis and David Freese finished with three, including a two-run homer.

Geovany Soto homered in the seventh for the Cubs, who split a six-game homestand. Ryan Dempster (3-5) allowed six runs and nine hits in 6 2-3 innings.

Marlins 1, Phillies 0

At Miami, Ronny Paulino drove in the only run to lift the Marlins to the victory.

Paulino's sixth-inning single drove in Hanley Ramirez and made a winner of Anibal Sanchez (5-2), who gave up three hits and struck out seven in 6 2-3 innings. Leo Nunez pitched a perfect ninth for his 10th save in 12 tries as Florida ended a four-game losing streak.

Jamie Moyer (5-5) gave up one run and four hits in six innings, failing in a bid to join Phil Niekro and Jack Quinn as the only pitchers to win 100 games after turning 40.

Philadelphia took two of three over the weekend against the Marlins, despite getting only four runs in the series.

Dodgers 4, Rockies 3

At Denver, Clayton Kershaw struck out nine in five innings and Xavier Paul hit a tiebreaking RBI single in the sixth for the Dodgers.

Kershaw (5-3) allowed two runs and four hits, but struggled at times with his control while matching his season high for strikeouts. He walked four, had a wild pitch and hit the first batter he faced.

In all, five Los Angeles pitchers notched 14 strikeouts, including one by Jonathan Broxton, who gave up an unearned run in the ninth but still earned his 13th save in 15 chances.

The win was the Dodgers' 10th in their last 12 games against NL West opponents, and they have the best intradivision record in baseball at 15-5.

Braves 5, Pirates 2

At Atlanta, pinch-hitter Chipper Jones had a tiebreaking RBI single in the eighth inning as Atlanta completed a three-game sweep.

Nate McLouth started the decisive rally with a one-out walk. He swiped second before Joel Hanrahan (1-1) walked pinch-hitter Brian McCann. Martin Prado struck out but Jones followed with a bloop single into shallow left field, just out of the reach of shortstop Ronny Cedeno.

Jason Heyward added a two-run triple off Javier Lopez as the Braves won their fifth straight game to pull within a half-game of NL East-leading Philadelphia.

Padres 3, Nationals 2, 11 innings

At San Diego, pinch-hitter Nick Hundley singled in Lance Zawadzki from second base with two outs in the 11th inning to give the Padres the victory.

Zawadzki started the winning rally with an infield single that deflected off pitcher Sean Burnett's glove. Second baseman Adam Kennedy fielded it and his errant throw went into the Padres' dugout, putting Zawadzki on second. Matt Capps relieved and Hundley singled to left. There was no throw home as the Padres took two of three.

Luke Gregerson (1-1) pitched two perfect innings for the win.

Washington's Ryan Zimmerman homered twice off Jon Garland, giving him 10 for the season. Burnett (0-3) got the loss.

Giants 6, Diamondbacks 5, 10 innings

At San Francisco, Andres Torres hit a two-out RBI single in the 10th inning as the Giants handed the Diamondbacks their seventh consecutive loss.

Torres hit a sharp liner to right off Carlos Rosa (0-1) for the first game-ending hit of his career and his fourth single of the game. Juan Uribe scored after starting the rally with a two-out single.

Brian Wilson (1-0) pitched a 1-2-3 10th with two strikeouts for the win, the closer's third straight outing not allowing a baserunner.

The Giants rallied in the ninth against closer Chad Qualls, getting an RBI single from Freddy Sanchez and a tying RBI groundout from Pablo Sandoval.

Astros 2, Reds 0, 10 innings

At Cincinnati, Lance Berkman hit a two-run double in the 10th inning as the Astros salvaged the finale of the three-game series.

Micah Owings (3-1) walked pinch-hitter Cory Sullivan and Michael Bourn with one out. Jeff Keppinger fouled out before Berkman hit Owings' first pitch into the right-field corner.

Brandon Lyon (1-1) worked out of a bases-loaded jam in the bottom of the ninth to get the win. Orlando Cabrera flied out to right to end the threat.

Matt Lindstrom pitched the 10th for his 11th save in 12 tries for Houston, which had lost three in a row and six out of seven.

Mets 10, Brewers 4

At Milwaukee, knuckleballer R.A. Dickey pitched seven innings and Angel Pagan homered to help the Mets avoid a three-game sweep.

The Mets battered Milwaukee's shaky bullpen, which allowed eight runs in four innings, to improve to 4-12 in May away from Citi Field.

Zach Johnson adds plaid jacket with Colonial win

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—Zach Johnson now has a plaid jacket to go along with his green one, after an extended wait before slipping on his prize at the Colonial.

Johnson won at Hogan's Alley with a tournament record 21-under 259, sealing his victory with a pair of birdies in the short span of play in between two late weather delays Sunday.

When Johnson drained a 14-foot birdie putt at the 17th hole to take a two-stroke lead over Brian Davis, he had a wide smile on his face and emphatically pumped his fist. But the real celebration had to wait.

"As far as momentum and a big putt, that was a big one," said Johnson, the 2007 Masters champion. "I didn't have a number in my head, but I figure if you get to 21, you have got a pretty good chance."

Johnson's closing 6-under 64 left him three strokes ahead of Davis, who had a closing 68.

"Zach won the tournament, I didn't lose it," Davis said. "It was a weird feeling walking up 18 knowing you can't win."

When the horn sounded to suspend play the first time, Johnson was approaching his tee shot at No. 15 that had landed in the right rough short of a bunker. After that delay, he hit his approach onto the green and made the putt to get back to 20 under.

By time play was stopped again 31 minutes later, before he teed off at 18 for a closing par, Johnson was ready for the plaid jacket.

"Quite frankly, the biggest one, I thought, was probably on 15," he said. "It calmed me down."

The delays were because of threatening weather. Light rain fell despite sunny skies after the second delay lasted 46 minutes, a minute shorter than the first one.

Jeff Overton and Ben Crane both shot 67 to finish tied for third at 17 under. Scott Verplank (65) and Bryce Molder (70), who led after the second and third rounds, were another shot back.

Davis was again contending for his first PGA Tour victory, six weeks after the 35-year-old Englishman called a two-stroke penalty on himself on the first hole of a playoff at Hilton Head.

At Colonial, Davis was 19 under with a two-stroke lead after a 5 1/2-foot putt at the seventh hole. But that was his last birdie of the day. A 9-footer at No. 17 slid just past the cup, then he finished with a bogey.

It is the seventh PGA Tour victory for Johnson and first since winning in San Antonio last May. His best finish through 12 tournaments this season had been a tie for 12th at the Sony Open in Hawaii the second week of the season.

Along with the plaid jacket, Johnson got a $1.116 million check.

"Going into the back nine, my mindframe was I don't care if I win this, I don't care if I lose it, I'm content with whatever happens," he said. "I'm going to go out fighting, I'm going to go out aggressive."

Johnson's clinching shot at the 381-yard 17th was his fifth birdie on the back nine, though he gave back one of those with his only bogey over his last 2 1/2 rounds.

Three of those birdies came on putts of at least 22 feet in a four-hole stretch. He took the lead for good when he drained the longest of the three, a 25-footer at the 427-yard 15th hole soon after the initial weather delay.

AP

Zach Johnson posses with the champion trophy after winning the Colonial golf tournament in Fort Worth, Texas, Sunday, May 30, 2010.

Kenny Perry was 19 under in both of his Colonial victories, in 2003 and 2005. The next-lowest score before this week was 17 under by a trio of players last year when Steve Stricker won on the second playoff hole.

The Colonial score was the lowest on the PGA Tour for a four-round tournament since Geoff Ogilvy won the season-opening SBS Championship in Hawaii at 22-under 270.

At Hilton Head in April, Davis made a birdie on the 72nd hole to get into a playoff with Jim Furyk. Davis ticked a loose reed in a hazard during a backswing in the playoff and immediately called over a rules official to point out something that might have otherwise gone unnoticed. A television replay confirmed the violation.

Davis tied for 57th at New Orleans and missed the cut his last three tournaments before getting to Colonial.

"If you would have said at the start of the week after three missed cuts you are going to finish second, you would be delighted," he said. "Obviously, I had a chance today, I couldn't quite get over the hump."

Molder led alone halfway through the tournament and shared the lead with Davis at the start of the final round, but his final birdie Sunday came on the 10th hole, the same as Saturday, when he finished with eight consecutive pars instead of being able to lower his score.

This time, he had bogeys at Nos. 16 and 17.

"You certainly learn," said the four-time All-American from Georgia Tech who is still looking for his first PGA Tour victory nine years after turning pro. "This is the closest I've been to winning. ... Zach put the pedal down and he really kept going. That's what you have to be able to do."

Venus loses in French Open's 4th round

PARIS (AP)—So much for the thought that this might be the year Venus Williams would make a strong showing at the French Open.

So much for the thought that she and her younger sister Serena, the tournament's two top-seeded women, could deliver another all-Williams Grand Slam final.

Displaying little of the spark or strokes she regularly produces on grass and hard courts, and playing little like someone with the tour's best 2010 winning percentage, Williams stalled on the red clay of Roland Garros yet again Sunday, exiting in the fourth round with a 6-4, 6-3 loss to No. 19 Nadia Petrova.

"I don't think the conditions are always ideal here. ... You might not be used to it or you might not get a good bounce," said the No. 2-seeded Williams, who began the day 29-4 this season, including 15-2 on clay. "That's just the way this tournament goes."

For her, anyway. The American's seven major titles all came at Wimbledon or the U.S. Open, and only once has she made it to the semifinals in 14 French Open appearances—back in 2002, when she lost to Serena in the championship match.

Williams complained about the temperatures in the 50s and swirling winds that reached 15 mph, and wore a long-sleeved top over her much-discussed black lace dress. She didn't exactly heap praise on Petrova, now a win away from reaching her third French Open semifinal.

"I don't think she did anything super special," Williams said, "but she just played a little bit more consistently."

Actually, Petrova concurred with that assessment, calling her own play "solid."

"I came up with the good shots when it was necessary," she said. "That's it. I don't think I've done anything spectacular today."

Petrova will face No. 5 Elena Dementieva in an all-Russian quarterfinal. Dementieva ended the surprising stay of 131st-ranked qualifier Chanelle Scheepers, the first South African woman in the fourth round at Roland Garros since 1997, by winning 6-1, 6-3.

No. 3 Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark will play No. 17 Francesca Schiavone of Italy in another quarterfinal. Wozniacki, runner-up at last year's U.S. Open, scraped together a 7-6 (5), 6-7 (4), 6-2 victory over No. 14 Flavia Pennetta of Italy, and Schiavone eliminated No. 30 Maria Kirilenko of Russia 6-4, 6-4.

None of those encounters featured the big names or big-stage experience of the third-round match between four-time champion Justine Henin and Maria Sharapova, which resumed Sunday after being suspended because of darkness a night earlier.

Sharapova began the third set strongly, taking 11 of the first 15 points. But when facing an 0-2, love-40 deficit, Henin began playing more aggressively and swung the momentum, taking four consecutive games on the way to winning 6-2, 3-6, 6-3, her 24th consecutive victory at the French Open.

The Belgian will be forced to play for the fifth day in a row Monday, against No. 7 Samantha Stosur of Australia.

"I know it's going to be difficult," Henin said.

There was little suspense in men's action Sunday, although there was a mild upset: No. 15 Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic beat No. 4 Andy Murray of Britain 6-4, 7-5, 6-3 to reach the French Open quarterfinals for the first time. Berdych now meets No. 11 Mikhail Youzhny of Russia, who advanced when No. 8 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France quit because of a hip injury.

Defending champion Roger Federer won in straight sets for the fourth consecutive round, dismissing No. 20 Stanislas Wawrinka 6-3, 7-6 (5), 6-2 in a matchup between buddies who paired up to win a doubles gold medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

So does Federer wish he'd faced more adversity?

While acknowledging a test can have "its advantages," he said: "As long as you come through, I always say, it's a great tournament. I'm playing really well at the moment, so I'm very happy where my game is."

That could be bad news for his next opponent, No. 5 Robin Soderling of Sweden, who dispatched No. 10 Marin Cilic of Croatia 6-4, 6-4, 6-2. Tuesday's quarterfinal will be a rematch of the 2009 final, which is part of Federer's 12-0 mark against Soderling.

"Obviously, that's a good record to have," Federer said. "But because of the improvements he's made, he's an opponent not to underestimate."

The same might be said of Petrova, who was 0-4 previously against Williams, and had developed a reputation for having trouble closing out matches. But she derived confidence from two recent victories: against Serena on clay at Madrid this month, and against No. 15 Aravane Rezai in the third round at Roland Garros.

In the latter, Petrova wasted three match points before eventually coming through 10-8 in the third set, something the Russian called "a big step forward."

On Sunday, Petrova finished with a 22-15 edge in winners and saved six of the seven break points she faced. Most impressively, she steeled herself after getting broken to fall behind 2-0 in the second set.

"I kept my nerves calm," Petrova said.

For the most part. Two points from victory, she took aim at what appeared to be an easy overhead putaway. Instead, she shanked it off her racket's frame, sending the ball into the seats behind the baseline. A point later, Petrova netted a forehand.

Uh, oh.

But she recovered, and two points later, she smacked a forehand winner to end it. Williams is still in the women's doubles tournament with her sister, but it seems likely that her participation in this French Open will be remembered more for a sartorial statement than any spectacular strokes.

Even Petrova weighed in.

"I must say: The dress that Venus wore—you must have a little guts to do that," she said.

Williams designed the corset-like outfit that drew so much attention, and said she'll "retire" it after this event. That doesn't mean she won't come up with something else buzz-worthy.

"Each and every day, on and off the court, on the match court and the practice court, I'm always pushing the envelope," Williams said. "But, you know, I have to wait until next year."

A familiar refrain for her at Roland Garros.

LYN'S

From Page 28

came off the bench and was scoreless in the first half, tallied six in the third period, as Lyn's BBQ kept its distance, leading at 49-40, entering the fourth and final canto.

The Sparks behind Sahj Hossain moved to within three in the fourth period, 50-53, but Mateo and Naraja hit back-to-back treys to lead a short 8-0 run and give Lyn's BBQ a much safer lead. Lyn's BBQ two gunners finished the job by scoring the team's last six points in the remaining two minutes of the game.

Hossain led the Sparks' losing cause with his 17 points. He was the lone double-figure scorer for his team, making 12 straights in the third period before losing his rhythm, as he went to the bench in the closing minutes of that canto.

He came back midway in the fourth and added five more points, but failed to lift the Sparks to a come-from-behind win, as he could not draw support from his teammates.

Besides lacking support from the bench, the Sparks held on to the ball too much in their offensive sets, leaving them with only a few seconds to pull up for time-pressured shots.

Lyn's BBQ 67 – Mateo 17, Manalo 16, Naraja 10, Castro 8, De Vero 6, David 6, Santos 4.

Sparks 57 – Hossain 17, T. Santos 8, Z. Babauta 5, M. Manglona 5, E. Manglona 4, Camacho 4, Faisao 3, R. Babauta 2, A. Santos 1.

Scoring by quarters: 19-11, 34-23, 49-40, 67-57.

HEAVYWEIGHT

From Page 28

Cuki Alvarez invited the duo to train at his gym in San Antonio for their one-month stay here on Saipan. Rivera currently practices twice a day at Trench Tech Gym during weekdays. His practices consist of multiple reps on the speed bag, heavy bag, and footwork drills, working the gloves with his coach, running, as well as live sparring twice a week.

A year and a half ago, Rivera started out as a 334-lb. super-heavyweight boxer and has since trimmed down to a solid 208 lbs. He currently holds a 5-3 win-loss amateur record and according to his trainer, is still getting better and better every day.

"I noticed Elmer when he first came to the gym and was exercising by himself. I like to keep an eye on newcomers and even though he was a big guy, he moved around really well for his size. After observing him for a couple days, I started training with him because I saw the talent," said Rawson.

As remarkable as it is to lose over 125 lbs. in only a year and a half, all heavyweight competitors for the 2010 WABC must weigh-in at less than 201 lbs., so Rivera still needs to trim about seven more pounds to be eligible for the July tournament.

The former tile-setter/construction worker has always loved the sport of boxing and grew up watching the likes of James Toney, Rocky Marciano, and Carmen Basilio.

Rawson used to live on Saipan from 2001-02 with his wife, who is a Take Care medical provider.

Rivera learned through his coach and his own research that the CNMI has a healthy market of fighters.

"True it is hot here, but it is even hotter in the desert where I am from. Saipan is a nice change of scenery, and going somewhere away from home to train helps me focus more on the training and my goals for the future," said Rivera.

During his visit, Rivera has taken advantage of the change of scenery, checking out various sightseeing sites, like Suicide Cliff and Banzai Cliff, and even went snorkeling for his first time at Ladder Beach.

He has been trying a variety of different foods and plans on taking a visit to Managaha Island before his plane leaves on July 13. Recently Rivera participated in an exhibition match as part of Trench Warz 12: Battle Brawl back on May 21 where he showcased his skills and power in what was a brief bout.

"We are always looking for sparring partners," said Rawson, "so if anyone here wants a crack at Rivera before we leave on the 13th, just get a hold of Cuki and we'll set something up."

"Saipan is a beautiful island and all the people here have been very nice to me. I really want to thank Mr. Alvarez and all of the people who helped out with my training," added Rivera.

Back when he was a resident on island, Rawson used to run a boxing gym on Texas St. in Chalan Kanoa where he first became acquainted with Alvarez. The two have kept in touch over the years and when Rawson came over with Rivera for training, he brought with him some donated boxing equipment from former Nevada boxing promoter, Don Muse.

"Mr. Muse is a really good man and after hearing about the fighters over here in the Pacific wanted to help out the local gyms and future fighters. [Muse] has donated equipment to the Trench Tech and Predator Combat Team facilities and may be sending over some more stuff some time in the future," said Rawson.

SAIPAN

From Page 28

over the weekend at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Mandapat bested 24 other female keglers for the CNMI May Masters title after she carded 2, 215 pinfalls in 12 games for an average of 184.58. Guam, which sent 11 bowlers to the three-day tournament, had a 1-2 finish in the women's division, as Leanne Rankin came in second with her 12-game total of 2,131.

The Top 5 finishers in the women's division received cash prizes with Jerrie Vales becoming the lone Saipan bet to make it into the winner's circle after placing third. Vales tallied 2,123 pinfalls in 12 games for an average of 176.92 per game. Guam's Shannon Bukikosa and Maddison Willis finished fourth and fifth, respectively with their 2,112 and 2,088 pinfalls.

Mandapat started strong in the 12-game roll-off with her 198 pinfalls and had her best showing in Game 3, posting 203 pinfalls. Her second best performance came in Game 6 and 10 when she recorded 201 pinfalls in each game.

Rankin's best score was in Game 9 when she knocked down 242 pins, but lost the annual title when she logged only 152 in Game 12. Rankin's lowest output was in Game 1, when she struggled with 150 pinfalls.

Vales also had a tough time at the start of the tournament, making only 149 pinfalls in Game 1. Her highest score came in Game 9 when she tallied 210 pinfalls and she secured third place after a solid finish, carding 202 in the last game.

In the men's division, Castro prevailed over 25 other qualifiers when he totaled 2,563 pinfalls in 12 games. He was the lone competitor in the men's division to knock down more than 2,500 pins. In 12 games, he recorded more than 200 pinfalls on seven occasions, showing his best form in Game 9 when he nailed 247 pinfalls. His lowest output was in Game 5, drilling 180 pinfalls.

Saipan swept the five other places in the men's division with Simon Manacop in second with 2,414 pinfalls, Raymond Angeles in third (2,392), 2009 May Masters Robert Talavera in fourth (2,382), Percy Omechelang in fifth (2,381), and Nick Gutierrez in sixth (2,380).

Castro won $950 and a trophy for topping the men's division, while Mandapat went home with a trophy and $500 after clinching the women's title.

Results of other competitions in the annual event will be published in tomorrow' edition of *Saipan Tribune*.

JI HOON

From Page 28

Korea's Hyung-Chan Lim, Jae-Bin Jeon, Cheong-Eui Kim, and Hwan-Yong Choi, Australia's Nathan Willis and Josh Barrenechea, and American Franklin Sherrill.

Seventeen joined the qualifier with Guam's Marten Lai failing to make grade, along with several players from Japan and Canada.

In the main draw, Heo was paired against a tough foe in the first round. The CNMI netter was scheduled to face tournament No. 7 seed and world No. 868 Joel Lindner of Australia yesterday.

The 2010 Guam Futures has a 32-player main draw with world No. 251-ranked and Japan's Tatsuma Ito gaining the top seed. Japan has five other seeded players in the tournament; No. 2 Jurin Mitsuhashi, No. 3 Toshihide Matsui, No. 4 Arata Onozawa, No. 5 Tasuku Iwami, and No. 6 Masato Hatanaka. Completing the seeded players list was No. 8 Brendan Moore of Australia.

Pacific Oceania Davis Cupper Michael Leong of the Solomon Islands is also in the main draw and was set to meet Iwami in the first round yesterday. Guam has one entry in the main draw in Justin Dugan, who had the toughest opponent in the first round, as he was to collide against the top seeded Ito.

The main draw also featured players from Germany, Taipei, Japan, Korea, and the U.S.

In the doubles draw, Heo will be teaming up with Dugan and they will square off against Japan's Hiroyasu Ehara and Taipei's Liang-Chi Huang in the first round.

Seeded in the doubles were No. 1 Tasuku and Matsui of Japan, No.2 Christian Guevarra and Ruben Gonzales of the U.S., No. 3 Bumpei and Hiroyasu Sato, and No. 4 Leong and Moore.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA LEADERS

SCORING

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Wade, MIA	5	62	27	166	33.2
Anthony, DEN	6	64	50	184	30.7
Bryant, LAL	16	168	101	471	29.4
James, CLE	11	106	88	320	29.1
Rose, CHI	5	57	18	134	26.8
Nowitzki, DAL	6	58	40	160	26.7
Durant, OKC	6	43	54	150	25.0
Williams, UTA	10	67	89	243	24.3
Stoudemire, PHX	16	124	107	355	22.2
Westbrook, OKC	6	43	32	123	20.5
Billups, DEN	6	37	37	122	20.3
Gasol, LAL	16	122	76	320	20.0
Richardson, PHX	16	112	44	316	19.8
Boozer, UTA	10	89	19	197	19.7
Butler, DAL	6	43	25	118	19.7
Ginobili, SAN	10	58	58	194	19.4
Pierce, BOS	17	104	85	325	19.1
Aldridge, POR	6	40	33	114	19.0
Duncan, SAN	10	78	33	190	19.0
Nelson, ORL	14	91	51	266	19.0

FG PERCENTAGE

	FG	FGA	PCT
Thomas, CHA	15	24	.625
Howard, ORL	86	140	.614
Millsap, UTA	70	122	.574
Bynum, LAL	61	107	.570
Gasol, LAL	122	216	.565
Wade, MIA	62	110	.564
Nowitzki, DAL	58	106	.547
Boozer, UTA	89	168	.530
Noah, CHI	28	53	.528
Horford, ATL	67	128	.523

REBOUNDS

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Boozer, UTA	10	33	99	132	13.2
Noah, CHI	5	20	45	65	13.0
Howard, ORL	14	38	117	155	11.1
Gasol, LAL	16	57	117	174	10.9
Camby, POR	6	16	44	60	10.0
Duncan, SAN	10	30	69	99	9.9
Odom, LAL	16	50	102	152	9.5
James, CLE	11	15	87	102	9.3
Horford, ATL	11	28	71	99	9.0
Wallace, CHA	4	2	34	36	9.0

ASSISTS

	G	AST	AVG
Williams, UTA	10	102	10.2
Nash, PHX	16	161	10.1
Rondo, BOS	17	170	10.0
James, CLE	11	84	7.6
Rose, CHI	5	36	7.2
Kidd, DAL	6	42	7.0
Wade, MIA	5	34	6.8
Billups, DEN	6	38	6.3
Bryant, LAL	16	99	6.2
Westbrook, OKC	6	36	6.0

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	34	17	.667	—
New York	30	20	.600	3 1/2
Toronto	30	22	.577	4 1/3
Boston	29	23	.558	5 1/2
Baltimore	15	36	.294	19

Central Division

Minnesota	30	20	.600	—
Detroit	26	23	.531	3 1/2
Chicago	22	28	.440	8
Kansas City	21	30	.412	9 1/2
Cleveland	18	30	.375	11

West Division

Oakland	27	24	.529	—
Texas	26	24	.520	—
Los Angeles	25	27	.481	2 1/2
Seattle	19	30	.388	7

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	28	21	.571	—
Atlanta	28	22	.560	1/2
New York	26	25	.510	3
Florida	25	26	.490	4
Washington	25	26	.490	4

Central Division

Cincinnati	30	21	.588	—
St. Louis	29	22	.569	1
Chicago	24	27	.471	6
Milwaukee	21	29	.420	8 1/2
Pittsburgh	20	31	.392	10
Houston	17	33	.340	12 1/2

West Division

San Diego	30	20	.600	—
Los Angeles	28	22	.560	2
San Francisco	27	22	.551	2 1/2
Colorado	26	24	.520	4
Arizona	20	31	.392	10 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Houston 2, Cincinnati 0, 10 innings
Florida 1, Philadelphia 0
Atlanta 5, Pittsburgh 2
N.Y. Mets 10, Milwaukee 4
St. Louis 9, Chicago Cubs 1
L.A. Dodgers 4, Colorado 3
San Francisco 6, Arizona 5, 10 innings
San Diego 3, Washington 2, 11 innings
N.Y. Yankees 7, Cleveland 3
Detroit 10, Oakland 2
Toronto 6, Baltimore 1
Boston 8, Kansas City 1
Chicago White Sox 8, Tampa Bay 5
L.A. Angels 9, Seattle 7
Minnesota 6, Texas 3

COLONIAL INVITATIONAL SCORES

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Scores Sunday after the final round of the $6.2 million Colonial tournament at the 7,204-yard Par 70 Colonial Country Club course:

FINAL ROUND

Zach Johnson (500), $1,116,000	65-66-64-64–259	-21
Brian Davis (300), $669,600	64-65-65-68–262	-18
Jeff Overton (163), $359,600	63-67-66-67–263	-17
Ben Crane (163), $359,600	68-64-64-67–263	-17
Scott Verplank (105), $235,600	67-66-66-65–264	-16
Bryce Molder (105), $235,600	65-62-67-70–264	-16
Ricky Barnes (88), $199,950	66-66-67-66–265	-15
Corey Pavin (88), $199,950	67-64-67-67–265	-15
Boo Weekley (80), $179,800	67-63-67-69–266	-14
Martin Laird (70), $155,000	69-67-66-65–267	-13
Pat Perez (70), $155,000	69-68-63-67–267	-13
Bo Van Pelt (70), $155,000	67-66-65-69–267	-13
Geoff Ogilvy (54), $99,889	70-67-67-64–268	-12
David Toms (54), $99,889	68-67-68-65–268	-12
Paul Casey (54), $99,889	66-70-66-66–268	-12
John Mallinger (54), $99,889	65-66-69-68–268	-12
K.J. Choi (54), $99,889	67-67-66-68–268	-12
Matt Jones (54), $99,889	69-66-64-69–268	-12
Kris Blanks (54), $99,889	65-64-68-71–268	-12
Bill Haas (54), $99,889	65-68-64-71–268	-12
Jason Bohn (54), $99,889	63-65-68-72–268	-12
Cameron Beckman (47), $59,520	67-68-68-66–269	-11
Stewart Cink (47), $59,520	69-68-66-66–269	-11
Carl Pettersson (47), $59,520	65-66-70-68–269	-11
Kevin Na (47), $59,520	67-68-65-69–269	-11
Kenny Perry (47), $59,520	68-64-67-70–269	-11
Henrik Stenson (42), $43,090	67-69-68-66–270	-10
Michael Sim (42), $43,090	69-67-67-67–270	-10
Nick Watney (42), $43,090	68-66-67-69–270	-10
Blake Adams (42), $43,090	63-70-68-69–270	-10
Kyle Stanley (0), $43,090	68-66-66-70–270	-10
John Merrick (42), $43,090	66-66-66-72–270	-10
Tim Petrovic (36), $33,480	68-68-70-65–271	-9
Brian Gay (36), $33,480	68-69-68-66–271	-9
Graham DeLaet (36), $33,480	68-68-68-67–271	-9
Mike Weir (36), $33,480	68-68-68-67–271	-9
Vijay Singh (36), $33,480	67-70-67-67–271	-9
Tom Gillis (31), $26,040	69-69-68-66–272	-8
Kevin Sutherland (31), $26,040	71-67-68-66–272	-8
Fredrik Jacobson (31), $26,040	68-69-67-68–272	-8
Steve Stricker (31), $26,040	68-67-67-70–272	-8
Rickie Fowler (31), $26,040	70-67-64-71–272	-8
Lee Janzen (31), $26,040	70-66-63-73–272	-8
Lucas Glover (25), $18,745	72-65-70-66–273	-7
Greg Chalmers (25), $18,745	70-65-70-68–273	-7
Derek Lamely (25), $18,745	67-66-72-68–273	-7
Chad Collins (25), $18,745	70-66-69-68–273	-7
J.J. Henry (25), $18,745	67-70-67-69–273	-7
Spencer Levin (25), $18,745	65-69-69-70–273	-7
Heath Slocum (19), $14,839	69-69-69-67–274	-6
Ben Curtis (19), $14,839	70-67-69-68–274	-6
Michael Bradley (19), $14,839	67-69-69-69–274	-6
Jason Day (19), $14,839	66-71-68-69–274	-6
Aron Price (19), $14,839	65-68-71-70–274	-6
Angel Cabrera (19), $14,839	68-68-66-72–274	-6
Matt Kuchar (14), $14,012	69-69-71-66–275	-5
John Senden (14), $14,012	69-67-71-68–275	-5
Tim Clark (14), $14,012	67-70-68-70–275	-5
Jerod Turner (9), $13,392	69-68-73-66–276	-4
James Nitties (9), $13,392	68-66-72-70–276	-4
Brandt Snedeker (9), $13,392	71-66-69-70–276	-4
Brendon de Jonge (9), $13,392	69-66-70-71–276	-4
Stephen Ames (9), $13,392	68-70-66-72–276	-4
Paul Goydos (9), $13,392	69-65-68-74–276	-4
Jerry Kelly (9), $13,392	67-70-63-76–276	-4
John Daly (5), $12,896	66-69-75-67–277	-3
Nathan Green (4), $12,710	65-70-71-72–278	-2
Alex Prugh (4), $12,710	71-65-69-73–278	-2
Billy Mayfair (2), $12,462	69-69-70-71–279	-1
Rory Sabbatini (2), $12,462	67-71-70-71–279	-1
Justin Rose (1), $12,152	67-70-73-70–280	E
Brett Quigley (1), $12,152	71-66-72-71–280	E
J.P. Hayes (1), $12,152	67-70-67-76–280	E
Kevin Stadler (1), $11,904	69-68-70-74–281	+1
Charlie Wi (1), $11,780	68-69-69-77–283	+3
Ian Poulter (1), $11,656	69-69-73-76–287	+7

FedExCup points in parentheses

Green Team advances to finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Green Team booked the first finals ticket in the 2010 Marianas Variety Women's Basketball League after outclassing Bon-Faiyah in the winner's bracket semifinals, 63-52, last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

A 14-2 start gave Green Team the momentum and Bon-Faiyah never recovered, dropping the latter to the loser's bracket. Bon Fai-Yah was to face the winner of the Team Solid-IDK playoff game last night for the second finals ticket. IDK and Team Solid played in the second game last Friday, but results of the match were unavailable at press time.

Melody Matson led Green Team's crucial win against Bon-Faiyah, firing 17 points. Emily Matson chipped in 15, while Andrea Engelhardt also finished in double figures with 12.

Green Team is undefeated in the regular season and in the playoffs, thus has a twice-to-beat advantage in the finals.

Connie Camacho paced Bon-Faiyah with 24 points, while Dion Diaz added 12.

Meanwhile, the women's caging went down to four teams last Wednesday after Team Solid and Team IDK eliminated their respective foes.

Team IDK clobbered Basket Case in the first game, 68-52, to oust the latter in the double-elimination playoffs. Basket Case bowed to Team Solid in its first playoff game and was put in a must-win situation against Team IDK.

Team IDK won its first playoff match over the Lady Eagles, but lost to Green Team, leaving the former with no choice but to beat Basket Case to remain in contention for the title.

Team Solid played in the second game and whipped the Lady Eagles, 88-56. The Lady Eagles absorbed their second straight loss and were booted out of the six-team league.

Team IDK won the important playoff game sans its top scorer Roxanne Duenas. Jamie Mendoza and Glorily Williams stepped up in the absence of Duenas, firing 28 and 26 points respectively.

Basket Case kept pace with Team IDK only in the first quarter when the latter led by only six, 16-10. However, Mendoza and Williams picked up the pace in the second period, combining for 21 points to lift Team IDK to a 40-22 halftime lead. Team IDK never looked back from thereon.

Team Solid had the game as early as in the first period when it held the Lady Eagles to four points for a 23-point lead after 10 minutes of play, 27-4.

Lalaine Pagarao paced Team Solid with 39 markers, making up for her anemic performance in their 47-57 loss to Bon-Faiyah last Monday when she scored only three points. Amy Sletten added 20, while Marie Javier and Nikki Gabaldon chipped in 13 and 12, respectively.

FRIDAY

Green Team 63 – M. Matson 17, E. Matson 15, A. Engelhardt 12, R. Tacliad 9, C. Engelhardt 8.

Bon-Faiyah 52 –Camacho 24, Diaz 12, Bennett 9, Benavente 6, S. Mizutani 1.

Scoring by quarters: 19-5, 38-16, 52-35, 63-52

WEDNESDAY

First Game

Team IDK 68 – Mendoza 28, Williams 26, Guzman 11, Faisao 4.

Basket Case 52 – Palero 20, Mesa 18, Joseph 8, J. Palero 4, Benette 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-10, 40-22, 56-33, 68-52.

Second Game

Team Solid 88 – Pagarao 39, Sletten 20, Javier 13, Gabaldon 12, Vallo 4.

Lady Eagles 56 – Smith 18, Wonenberg 18, Pritchard 10, Chen, Bruyako 4.

Scoring by quarters: 27-4, 42-20, 61-32, 88-56.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Green Team's Andrea Engelhardt, left, goes for an undergoal shot against Bon-Faiyah's Connie Camacho during their semifinals game in the women's league last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

UFO caging meeting today

Organizers of the 2010 United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League are calling on representatives of participating teams to attend a meeting today.

The meeting is set for 7pm at McDonald's Middle Road. Details of the league opening and other important matters about the season will be discussed at the meeting.

The 2010 edition of the UFO league will kick off on June 6 at the JP Center Basketball Court.

So far, five teams have already confirmed their participation in the open division of the league. The teams with their assigned uniform colors in parenthesis are defending champion MDX (green), SIP (yellow), MAFEA (black/red), Bayani (combination), VisMinda (blue), and MI-FICPA (blue).

Those who joined last season and wish to join again this year have the following as assigned uniform colors; SMF (combo white/red) , Cabalen (red), Boholanos (Black), Bicol (orange), NMBA (purple), and LIPS (light blue).

"We encourage all active organizations to join or lend their names to the participating teams, as the league aims to promote camaraderie and solidarity among us in the basketball community. Sports is a unifying event, as we all share the same passion, especially in basketball," UFO official Paul Madriaga said.

This year's UFO caging will have a different format in the open division, allowing each team to recruit two non-Filipino players. One of the two reinforcements must be a local and the other could be of any nationality.

In the masters division, eligibility rules are the same as last year, with the caging open for players in the 37-and-above age group. Entrance fee in the masters is only $300 and $500 in open.

For more information, contact Olive Yana at 285-7893, Melvin Malvar at 789-2101 or mjmalvar@yahoo.com, Paul Madriaga at 287-4501, or madriaga@pticom.com, and Annamae Adaza at 483-5237 or amhae25@yahoo.com. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of Marianas Walking Association's 11th Annual SOPHIA Walk pose for a photo before the start of the event last May 16 at the Chamolinian Utt in Garapan.

131 join SOPHIA Walk

A total of 131 community members and tourists from Japan took part in Marianas Walking Association's 11th Annual SOPHIA Walk held last May 16.

Among the personalities that took part in the event were Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, former Rep. Mike Tenorio and family, Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan's B.K. Park, Lupe Flores, Elena Soll, and 50 of their staff, Rotary Club of Saipan president Kim Forrester, DFS Saipan assistant general manager Ben Babauta, White Coconut Computer Services consultant Mar Masilungan, Dr. Jack Hardy, and 90-year-old Jo Izumi, who led the 15-person delegation from Nippon Turtle Club of Japan.

The walking event had two courses. The longer 10-kilometer course took participants through the Garapan tourist area, American Memorial Park, and to the intersection of Middle Road and the road leading to the Saipan Port, and back to the Chamolinian Utt. For the shorter five-km course, the turning point was the end of Smiling Cove Marina inside the AMP.

The 2010 SOPHIA Walk was sponsored by MVA, Coca-Cola, and Joannas Transportation. It was also supported by Nippon Turtle Association, Fiesta Resort & Spa, DFS Saipan, Carolinian Affairs Office, Tasi Tours, Team PDI, and Rotary Club of Saipan.

The event was held in conjunction with the 2010 World Walking Day, which is celebrated in the "Worldside Embrace in the Spirit of Fun, Fitness and Friendship around the world."

The SOPHIA Walk, which is named after the former first lady, stands for Saipan Outdoor Physical Health Invigorating Adventure.

For more information about MWA and its future events, contact Mario Espeleta at 322-8876, Hiroko Tajima at 322-8781, or Bea Quitugua at 285-1694. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

HANMI Charity Golf Classic this Saturday

All roads lead to Laolao Bay Golf Resort this Saturday—at least for the islands' hotel industry is concerned—when the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands hosts the 9th Annual HANMI Charity Golf Classic.

Tee-off for one of the Commonwealth's most highly anticipated annual golf tournaments is at 7am and everyone who participates will have a chance to win exciting prizes while supporting a good cause.

Organizers said the one-day tournament is open to 144 players and that a total of $6,000 in cash and numerous in-kind prizes await the winners.

Six categories will be up for grabs for the June 5 competition, namely Championship Flight, A Flight, B Flight, C Flight, Seniors (55 years-and-over), and Ladies.

Players in the Championship Flight must have 0-5 handicaps, while those in A Flight are 6-10 handicappers. The B Flight is for players with 11-17 handicap, while C Flight are for players with handicap above 17.

First place winners of all flights will receive $500 and a trophy; second place finishers will receive $200 and a trophy; and third place winners will receive $200 and a trophy.

First place winners will also receive a hotel stay at a HANMI member hotel. Winners (champion, first runner-up and second runner-up) for the female golfers will be determined using the Double Peoria handicap system.

Golfers can also try their luck in two hole-in-one prizes worth $20,000 apiece.

Most accurate drive, longest drive, and nearest to pin competition will also be at stake at the Kagman golf course. Players interested in registering for these competitions must pay an additional $20.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ahn Jin shows the trophy and cash prize he won in the Championship Flight of the 8th Annual HANMI Charity Golf Classic Tournament held last year.

Registration forms are available at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort, Coral Ocean Point, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Marianas Country Club.

Early bird tournament fee is $95 for payments by June 3. The fee includes green fee and the awards banquet. The fee increases to $110 on June 4. For an additional $20, players may also compete for nearest to the pin, most accurate drive, and longest drive.

The awards ceremony for the 2010 HANMI Charity Golf Classic will be held at Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan on the night of the tournament beginning 6pm.

Last year, 19-year-old Ahn Jin won the Championship Flight after the newcomer carded a 1-over par 73. A total of 130 players took part in the 2009 edition of the tournament. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Scherzer helps Tigers beat Athletics 10-2

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Lyn's BBQ captures championship

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Lyn's BBQ outplayed the Sparks in a low scoring game, 67-57, to secure the championship in the 2010 Navy Hill Friendship Basketball on Sunday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Lyn's BBQ led from start to finish, foiling the Sparks' repeated comeback bids to rule the 17-team league. Lyn's BBQ is the Division A's champion team and topped the grand finale of the league after a 10-point win over Division B titlist Sparks.

Sparks failed to complete its title conquest, as it could not find the right combination that would ignite the team's cold offense. The Sparks shuffled its players too much, as in several occasions they replaced four or even five players on the court. This game plan kept most of the Sparks players out of their rhythm.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Lyn's BBQ players are all smiles and flash the No. 1 sign after winning the championship of the 2010 Navy Hill Friendship Basketball. Lyn's BBQ beat Sparks, 67-57, in a one-game championship Sunday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

In contrast, Lynn's BBQ stuck with its solid starting five—Manolo Manalo, Edwin Santos, Noel David, Robert Naraja, and Dan Mateo—and timely fielded players off the bench.

Mateo top-scored for Lyn's BBQ with his 17 points, while Manalo and Naraja chipped in 16 and 10, respectively. Mateo and Naraja's outside shots halted Sparks' rally in the fourth quarter, while Manalo's inside baskets allowed Lyn's BBQ to dictate the tempo of the game in the first half.

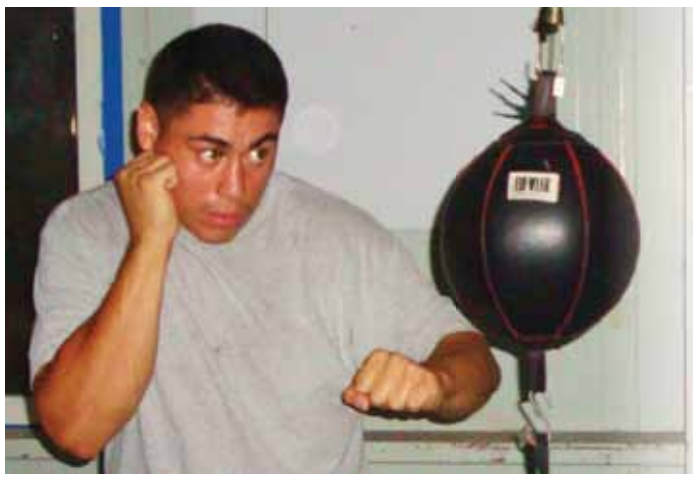
Manalo had eight points in the first period, while Mateo hit one triple and contributed five, giving Lyn's BBQ an 18-11 lead. Sparks had only Zachary Babauta scoring more than a field goal in the opening quarter.

In the second quarter, Mateo and Manalo continued to carry the cudgels for Lyn's BBQ, combining for 12 points, while Reymark Castro scored four off the bench, upping the team's lead to 11, 34-23.

Christian De Vero, who also

See LYN'S on Page 26

Heavyweight boxer training on Saipan



By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Since May 13, 2010 Saipan has served as a training ground for aspiring heavyweight boxer Elmer Rivera.

The 24-year-old Rivera has been boxing competitively for about a year and half and is here preparing for the 2010 World Amateur Boxing Championship-Desert Showdown tournament to be held in Coachella, Ca. from July 21 to 24, 2010. Coachella is about 30 miles Southeast of Palm Springs, Ca.

Rivera is a member of the Mesquite Boxing Club near Las Vegas, Nevada and is accompanied on island by his trainer, Don Rawson.

Trench-Tech Purebred owner

See HEAVYWEIGHT on Page 26

Mesquite Nevada fighter Elmer Rivera is seen here training with the speed bag at the Trench Tech Gym in Afetnas.

WALTER J. SUTHERLAND

Ji Hoon qualifies in main draw of pro tournament

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI junior tennis players Ji Hoon Heo survived the qualifying tournament for the 2010 Guam Futures to make it to the main draw of the ITF Men's Circuit pro event.

Heo drew a bye in the first round of the qualifier and faced American Joseph Kasnetz in the next round last Sunday at the Hilton Guam Resort & Spa tennis courts.

Despite the lack of training for the pro event, Heo showed little rust in his first game in Guam, whipping Kasnetz in the opening set, 6-1. In the second set, just when Heo seemed headed for a sweep, Kasnetz stood his ground to pull off a 7-5 win and force a deciding third set.

In the clincher, Kasnetz ran out of gas, allowing Heo to cruise to a 6-0 victory. Joining Heo in the main draw were seven other players;

See JI HOON on Page 26

Heo

Saipan, Guam split May Masters crowns

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

A group of Guam bowlers joined the 28th CNMI May Masters Tournament with one of the visitors sharing the limelight with the host's bet.

This after Guam's Fely Mandapat topped the women's division of the May Masters event, duplicating the feat of Saipan's Alex Castro, who ruled the men's division of the tournament held

See SAIPAN on Page 26

Immediate right, Alex Castro poses with his trophy after ruling the men's division of the 28th CNMI May Masters Tournament last Sunday, while May Masters women's champion Fely Mandapat of Guam shares the podium with Saipan Bowling Association president Jerry Tan at the awards ceremony.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO